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## CONCORDIA ST. PAUL'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1966

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### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR No 6

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

A good newspaper reflects the world we live in: full of contrasting events and beliefs. Newspapers have the ability to affect readers' perspectives on past and current happenings, as well as the emotions that arise from them. In this paper, our goal is to present reality, however harsh it may be, and to give readers an opportunity to expand

their perspectives on matters that affect them, directly or indirectly. Current news gives us a snapshot of our world and a chance to examine it with a critical eye. Frankly, sometimes that critical eye can appear to highlight "nothing but bad news." But we believe that you, our readers, can retain a sense of hope and empowerment in the face of our reality. We hope that when the need arises, you will turn disappointment into productive action.

With this in mind,

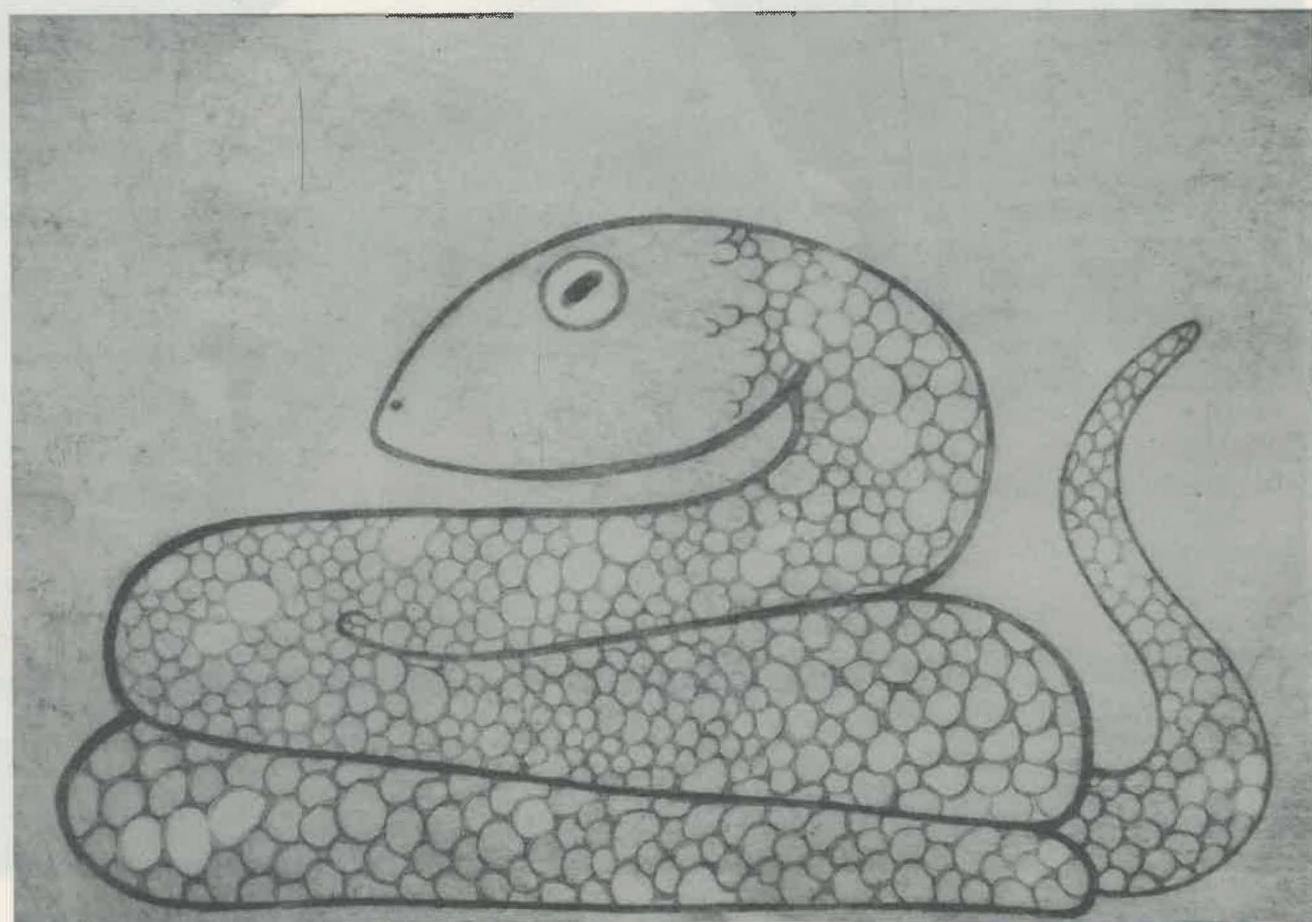
we will put conscious effort towards highlighting the many positive events that are happening within and beyond our campus. And when reported events seem negative, we hope they spur all of us into a place of empowerment, stubborn idealism, and underneath it all, a place to put the love we have for our world.

The most accurate representation of our reality reveals multiple sides of any issue. So take the stage, join the debate, give us your ideas

and opinions so that amidst the controversy, we can learn together. CSP is a complex and lively campus, and all of our voices have value. While this newspaper is printed in black and white, our ideas and events happen in full color!

The best service a newspaper can offer is to expand people's awareness, hope, and compassion. It is up to us to spread the word.

Editor-in-Chief,  
Brooke Steigauf



Whatever. Illustration by Madison Buchanan



## CSP Research Students Present at the State Capitol

BY COLE SCHUESSLER

In today's day and age, quality research has become a premium to problem solving and drawing conclusions. In the Concordia-St. Paul science department, top level research is being produced more frequently by the semester, and students recently had a chance to show the impacts of what they have been working on. This opportunity came through the annual Scholars at the Capitol event, where CSP's science department sent five of their hard-working research students.

This event allowed the students from private colleges to showcase research to everyone from politicians to passerby. The students were on two separate projects. Colton Baumler, Briana Holtmeier, and Laurel Carlson presented their research on the creation of an artificial culture vessel for tissue engineering. The other research project was represented by Darian Wisecup and Dezaray White, who displayed their work on the characterization of the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* on Concordia's campus. Baumler, Holtmeier, and Carlson used chick embryos and designing a vessel with a greater surface area to help visualize and access the chorioallantoic membrane of the embryo for tissue engineering applications. Wisecup and White's research focused on taking samples to identify the presence and carriers of *S. aureus*, a bacterium that can cause a range of illnesses. The two professors that accompanied the students were CSP Science Department Chair, Dr. Amanda Brosnahan, and chemistry professor, Dr. Taylor Mach.

CSP has previously presented research at the Scholars at the Capitol event, and they plan to continue the recent growth of the research program in the Science department. "Over the past seven years, the science department has put a strong emphasis on research," Brosnahan stated. The science department chair said that she has been taking students to the Capitol since she arrived in 2014, although those students were presenting on mini projects from the Cell Biology course on campus. Biology professor, Dr. Mary Ann Yang, was hired

to jumpstart the research in the science department at CSP in 2011, and the program has grown significantly from that time. One semester of research is now a requirement for Biology majors.

At this year's event, Concordia's research students were visited by faculty from CSP and other private colleges, fellow student presenters, and politicians. "Clark Johnson, my state House representative, actually stopped by, and we were able to present our research to him," said Holtmeier. The research sparked the interest of many of the visitors at the Capitol, which left the students with the tough task of explaining the complex science in a way those unfamiliar with the terms could understand. "Everyone was very interested in the rapid development of our project, the future course of tissue engineering using microfluidic via 3D printing," Baumler stated. "It was great practice to explain tricky scientific concepts in terms that anyone can understand and be interested in," added Holtmeier.

The experience was both beneficial to the students and the university as a whole. "It's good exposure for our department, the research we are doing on campus, and for CSP in general," said Brosnahan, "It's important to showcase the cool student research being done at all MN private colleges for the politicians that are invited." As previously mentioned, the students were also able to practice explaining the purpose and main points of research. "The take away was mainly to be able to rapidly change the level of explanations given to fellow students, from professors, to persons with no scientific background," stated Baumler. "They all left with different levels of detail, but a firm grasp on the whole project and the future potential of our research." †



Photo provided by Dr. Amanda Brosnahan



Photo provided by Dr. Amanda Brosnahan



Photo provided by Dr. Amanda Brosnahan

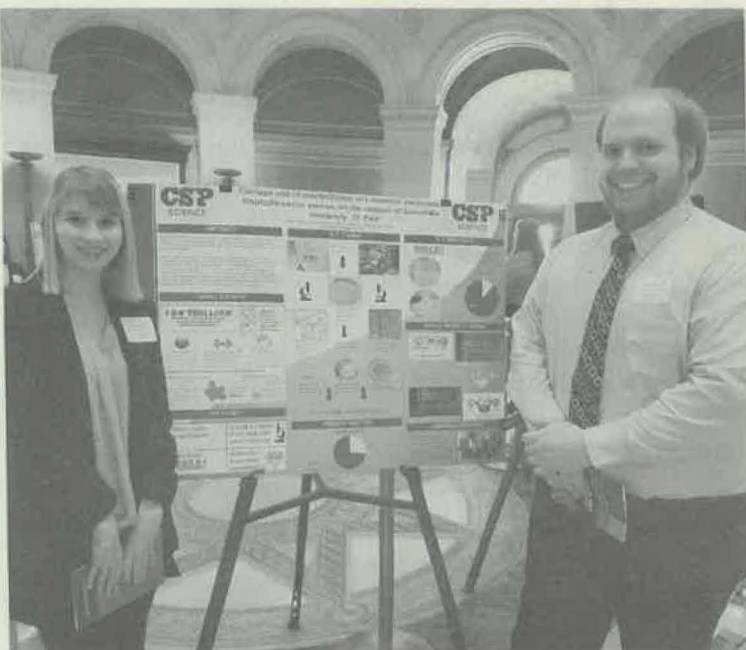


Photo provided by Dr. Amanda Brosnahan



# NEWS

## Faculty Spotlight: President Tom Ries A Pastor, President, and Packers Fan

BY TANNER PETERSON

As the snow melts and you begin to feel the sun's heat, you might hear the roar of a motorcycle around campus. Many may not have a clue who that might be, but there is a great chance that it is the President of Concordia University—St. Paul, President Tom Ries.

President Ries' winding road to Concordia started in his hometown of Adell, Wisconsin, a small town outside of Sheboygan. During his childhood, President Ries attended Concordia in Milwaukee for his high school and college education. Once out of Concordia—Milwaukee, Ries entered the seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. His first call as a pastor was in Minnesota, but not long after accepting the pastoral position, Ries received a call from President Hyatt, President of Concordia University—St. Paul at the time, about a job opportunity.

President Ries accepted the position to become Hyatt's assistant in only his mid-twenties. After President Hyatt left CSP, Ries left CSP for a pastoral position in the Twin Cities, where he worked for nine years, only to return to CSP as the Vice President of Finance.

While working as the Vice President, President Ries was offered a presidency of a foundation in St. Louis, Missouri and took it. However, once Dr. Holst retired from his time as president, President Ries found himself back at Concordia, this time as the President of Concordia University—St. Paul. "Heck no! When I got out of the ministry I thought I would become a parish pastor my whole life, and I didn't really get the whole idea of coming to work at a school or coming to work specifically at Concordia; it was out of the blue," stated Ries as he chuckles at the question of this being his plan all along.

President Ries lives by a mission statement he formed himself over 20 years ago: "To bring leadership expertise to organizations that honor Jesus Christ." The Gospel has always been a massive part of what makes President Ries the person he is today. He was the son of a pastor, and that is what first got him involved in proclaiming the Gospel. Along with being passionate about God, Ries' childhood was filled with school and sports.

As a young man, President Ries tried just about everything in the book: "I was the kid that worked really hard just to make the team." Although sports weren't his gift, school was something that was natural to him. "School came easy to me, and I was a straight-A student all the way through my elementary to high school years. I guess it was my destiny to not play in the NFL!" he added. Although he never got his shot in the league, President Ries does still remain a Green Bay Packers fan and has season tickets to his favorite team.

Along with the Green Bay Packers, President Ries enjoys knocking books off of his need-to-read list. He is currently in the midst of reading some all-time classics such as *Jane Eyre* and *Pride and Prejudice*, as well as some of the works by D.H. Lawrence. When he's not cheering on the green and gold or stuck in a good book, you can find him riding on his Suzuki motorcycle.

Within his role as president, Dr. Ries says, "My favorite part of the job is seeing students' success. I really thrive on helping organizations get stronger, operationally and financially. Ever since I've been here, the best thing is to see the amazing results that our students put in, and I love getting the chance to get to visit with alumni too." The legacy that he hopes to leave is something that any president would love to do, "I would like to be remembered as giving the university the resources it needed to get the job done and help students succeed." I think we can all agree that he has done, and continues to do, that job well. †



Photo provided from readmedia.com

## CSP Study Abroad Takes Schooling to a New Level

BY ZACK MOELLER

The C.A.L.L. Center on campus has long been offering students opportunities to add another dimension to their learning by traveling to a different location around the world. The hope is to not only learn about the culture and history, but to experience personal growth as you live, adapt, and function in another culture that is much different than what we are used to here. Currently, two students are studying abroad; Eden Garman is studying in Barcelona, Spain, and Megan Staffanson is experiencing Galway, Ireland. Both are writing blogs to document their travels, experiences, and emotions along the way.

Staffanson has been working with young children in Ireland helping at an after-school homework club, giving her experience towards her goal of becoming a child life specialist where she will provide educational, emotional, and social support to children and their families who are going through medical procedures and experiencing hospital stays. "College is already a time of exploration and personal definition and studying abroad takes the experience to an even deeper level. I have found that time away from home has given me a greater amount of freedom and introduced me to a rich atmosphere of diverse opinions and perspectives. The opportunity to meet new people, live in a new geographical area, and participate in relevant educational experiences has encouraged growth and personal discovery at an excellent rate," wrote Staffanson.

Garman writes, "Over the last few weeks I have been getting myself acquainted with the changes in language, time, food, and people, and I have finally found my rhythm. I feel at home on the metro (which is so extensive, clean and useful). I enjoy my classes (all my professors are fantastic!) I have made friends, (they make great adventure partners) and I have adapted to the food. I am proud of myself for all I have done so far, but I have a goal to immerse myself among Spanish people a bit more in the coming weeks." Garman is having the experience of a lifetime traveling all over Spain, experiencing the rich culture and history.

There are several different programs CSP offers for those wanting to study abroad including undergraduate travel seminars, graduate travel seminars, and service trips. The trips cover many parts of the globe including Italy, South Korea, China, and England. Check out the Study Abroad page on the CSP website, or stop by their office in Meyer Hall, if you are interested or have any questions about studying abroad. †

## Florida School Shooting Follows Disturbing Trend

BY ZACK MOELLER

Barely three months into the new year, an extremely disturbing trend has already been established. Tragedy after tragedy have struck, as at least fourteen school shootings have occurred resulting in the death of nearly 30 children. The worst of them was a mass shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where a nineteen-year-

old former student shot and killed at least 17 innocent unsuspecting students and staff, injuring several others.

The shooter, Nikolas Cruz was once expelled from that high school for disciplinary problems. The shooter took an Uber to the school, opened fire, and then escaped the scene pretending to be a fleeing student. He was later captured, arrested, treated at the

hospital for injuries and then released back into police custody, where he will later be charged with seventeen accounts of first degree murder, potentially receiving the death penalty for his offense.

While the attack came as a surprise, there may have been warning signs that were missed. Neighbors reported the violent tendencies of Cruz even as a child; he

*continued on page 5...*



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used to get into rock-throwing fights, showed a liking to violence towards small animals, showed an unhealthy interest towards guns and knives, and even began introducing himself as "a school shooter."

Over the years, several calls had been made to the deputy office about Cruz, all stemming from his violent tendencies and outburst of anger. Several leads were brought up to the FBI on Cruz, but none of the leads were ever pursued far enough. Cruz also posted to social media several times often posting things about guns and killing. He possibly even commented on a YouTube video, "I'm going to be a professional school shooter."

While capturing and sentencing Cruz is good, it does not bring back the lives of those lost, nor does it fill the hole in the hearts of the victim's family, friends, and loved ones. Something needs to happen in order to prevent these tragedies from happening in the first place. In this case, the red flags were there, and completely visible. Cruz had been reported, yet authorities never took him seriously. In order to prevent events like this in the future, everybody needs to start taking warning signs into weighty consideration. In most cases, the pieces to the puzzle are there; we just need to put them together and stop these heinous crimes. †

## Intramural Sports Making A Comeback at CSP

BY COLE SCHUESSLER

Walking around CSP's campus on a regular weekday, it is safe to say that the school is home to a wide variety of students. Even with a small campus, there are not many areas where each of these groups of students interact. However, one of these areas has been created recently.

After a period of dormancy, the Concordia Intramural program has risen from the ashes to make a return to prominence and has united different groups of people on campus. "Intramurals have been one organization to have cross sections with our athletes, our students of spiritual belief and our students of diverse populations," said Residence Life Intramural Coordinator Jake Wakem.

After being virtually non-existent in the recent past, the Intramural program was taken over by the Residence Life Department at CSP. New to the staff, Assistant Residence Life Director, Jake Wakem decided to take over the project of revamping the program. With experience running intramural programs at other schools as well as an affinity for intramural sports that went back to his days in college, Wakem was eager to jumpstart the program. "I said, 'Let me have it I would love to see what we could do with it,'" Wakem stated, "We had a budget line for it, and we were able to take it from there."

Starting midway through the fall semester, the intramural program began by offering two sports: indoor volleyball and three-on-three basketball. 89 students signed up to play on six volleyball teams and nine basketball teams. Each team got to play at least six games and was involved in a championship week, where CSP Intramurals added food and prizes to the mix.

The second semester has shown even more growth in the program, which now has 112 students signed up to play five-on-five basketball, indoor volleyball, and five-on-five indoor soccer (in the Athletic Performance Center). The newly added indoor soccer has been the biggest hit, with a total of eight teams competing in the league. The winners of each league receive an intramural

champion T-shirt and will have their name on a champion-hip banner.

So what have been the main elements to the sudden prosperity of CSP's newly revamped intramural program? "The two biggest keys to success have been organization and the seven students on our eBoard team," Wakem stated. "The fact that we have seven paid [eBoard] positions and 19 paid referee positions has absolutely changed it," the Assistant Residence Life Director continued. The eBoard is an executive board of seven students from all different groups on campus that help run intramurals, from creating promotions and rules to overseeing game day operations.

"I have really enjoyed seeing students' excitement and participation, offering another means to hang out with friends and get away from schoolwork and studying," said Tess Stage, who is a member of the eBoard team and plays intramural soccer.

The gameplay has also been fun for students, with the rules, setup, and levels of competition providing a good balance for all involved. "I have enjoyed the competitive nature that comes along with intramurals," said soccer player and eBoard member Alan Schembri Wismayer. "People are there to have fun, but also to win, which is what makes the experience a good one." CSP Intramurals hope to continue to grow in the options that they offer, possibly with the addition of sand volleyball and flag football in the future.

Looking at the numbers and diversity of the students involved in Intramural Sports, it is easy to say that the first year of the revamped program has been a success. With connections from students in athletics, international services, residence life, and those on and off campus, intramurals at CSP have found a way for the population of school to come together in a competitive and fun manner. †

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# NEWS



Photo by Riley Edling

## The 2018 Minnesota Private Colleges' Job & Internship Fair

BY RILEY EDLING

For the 42<sup>nd</sup> year, Minnesota's private colleges have hosted the annual job and internship fair for private college students to explore their career options and to network their resumes to attending employers. This event marks an extraordinary opportunity for students to dress professionally and speak with employers in a professional manner, showing off their interpersonal communication skills and qualities. The job and internship fair consisted of over 260 employers who were actively recruiting to fill job and internship positions for undergraduates. From TCF Bank to Fairview Health to Camp Minnesota, the options seemed endless. Attending undergraduates looked to take advantage of speaking with recruiters from a variety of different industries to learn how their career goals may fit with their hiring needs.

The event was hosted at the Minneapolis Convention Center on February 27<sup>th</sup> and stands out as one of the premier college/employer partnerships in the country. The fair's doors opened at 8:30 a.m. to students with special needs and doors opening at 9:00 a.m. for all other students. Students had five hours to explore their business options and give their names to the ones they found interest in. The fair offered an additional four-hour window, from 2:00–6:00 p.m., for employers to interview candidates on-site if they chose to do so.

The job and internship fair was not limited to the single day opportunity. Undergraduates were given the opportunity to put their foot in the door prior to the event by uploading their resumes to the Minnesota Private Colleges' Job & Internship Fair website. This gave employers the option to review candidates ahead of time, potentially selecting a handful to interview during the post-fair interview slots that were given.

In order to truly understand the atmosphere of the fair and how it operated, take a walk in my shoes. I was one of over a thousand students to attend. The first thing I took advantage of was the free LinkedIn headshots that were being offered. Even if the fair did not go as expected or one may not have found what they were looking for, everyone would have been able to walk away with a free professional headshot courtesy of LifeTouch. After signing in and receiving a name tag, I was free to network my name to businesses aimed specifically toward my major; I was certainly not disappointed with the options I was given. With great curiosity, I explored the many different career paths that were presented in front of me.

The professional atmosphere and competition around me was a great and unique feeling knowing that I was sending myself in the right direction to make the necessary steps and gain exposure to pursue a career. Now, no one can explore all career paths, but the beauty of it all was that presenting oneself and talking to employers that might not have offered what you were looking for is a great way to gain one-on-one communication skills, explore options, and hand out your resume for future references. I made sure to put my name out there with numerous companies, allowing myself to walk away confident that I accomplished my networking goals.

The Minnesota Private Colleges' Job and Internship Fair was a great success to both students and employers. The opportunities seemed endless, the consequences non-existent, and it was great fun in all. Returning students and employers of the 2019 fair will be looking forward to it once again, and newcomers are in for a treat. †

## "Let's Talk About Diversity"

BY ELHAM MOHAMUD

The diversity on CSP's campus is one of the things that sets us apart from many private colleges in the Twin Cities. CHUSA, GSC, PEACE, UMOJA, SSA, SOL, and CSE clubs came together to plan the "Let's Talk about Diversity" event on our campus. The goal of the event was to create a more welcoming community within the CSP campus by breaking down barriers and building bridges. This event shined a bright light on the different concerns of the minority students on Concordia's campus.

A constant theme of the night was "being comfortable with being uncomfortable," and this was evident from the moment that you walked into the BEC. There were no chairs or tables, so everyone was advised to either sit or stand. After a few ice breakers, students were asked to place themselves in categories based on where they felt like they belonged on campus: Library, Diversity Room, Chapel, Science Building, Tier Zero, Residence Hall, etc. Students were first organized by where they feel the most comfortable, but as statements began to be read, students were asked to move to the front of the BEC and out of their boxes if they related to the statements that were read. The statements ranged from "I am a commuter on campus" to "I have been bullied before." This allowed everyone become more comfortable with one another as the conversation moved to the diversity on CSP's campus, how to become more involved, and informing students about diversity clubs.

Students shared their stories about the support that they received on campus, along with times they felt a lack of support. They discussed how being a minority in a predominantly white institution can be a great thing for others, but also a taxing thing for minority individuals. Students spoke about the lack of building upon the diversity of our campus, and how everyone can learn from one another.

The theme of needing to feel comfortable with being uncomfortable was brought up a lot because in order to change and build these bridges, these conversations need to happen and action must be taken. Although Concordia's campus is diverse, more needs to be done to help make minority students feel more secure and included. Regardless of who you are, contact any of the CSP diversity clubs listed above to get involved.



Photo provided by Elham Mohamud



## Teachers of Tomorrow Joins Forces with Kappa Delta Pi

BY KELLY PIERCE

**T**eachers of Tomorrow is a long-time student organization at Concordia, though the club took a brief hiatus. Three years ago, students took the initiative to get the club up and running again. Today, the club is active and looking to grow by filing for membership with Kappa Delta Pi, an international honors society in education.

Led by Kristin Conrad, Cara Schmidtke, Alexandra Shoop, and Elizabeth Vesel, Teachers of Tomorrow helps education students connect outside of the classroom. Every year, the club hosts a book drive in October and a Teacher Appreciation day in March. Last year, the book drive collected four boxes of books for donation. The club is also hosting a study night on April 17th where students can connect with professors and peers while getting help on assignments.

Going forward, leaders for Teachers of Tomorrow have decided to seek membership with Kappa Delta Pi, a prestigious honors society for future educators. Affiliation with Kappa Delta Pi helps prospective educators with networking opportunities such as conferences, convocations, and research conferences.

Kappa Delta Pi offers various resources for future teachers. Classroom foldables and handouts are made available to members along with helpful apps, presentations, and access to a worldwide community of teachers sharing resources. They also offer various professional development resources. Webinars and reading materials provided by Kappa Delta Pi help millions of teachers across the globe develop their craft.

Providing scholarships and grants is yet another way Kappa Delta Pi adds value to the education and careers of teachers. The Louis M. Berman Fellows Fund is only one example; this scholarship is open to all and is awarded to students who have provided new direction to the field of education in leadership and social justice issues. The society also provides grants for classroom materials to working teachers.

Kappa Delta Pi is open to all teachers and post-secondary students, including graduate and doctoral levels. For undergraduate students to be a part of the society, they must be studying to go into the field of education, demonstrate leadership and a commitment to educational equality, have completed 24 credits of coursework, and hold a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Although there are rigid requirements to be in Kappa Delta Pi, these requirements do not apply to the Teachers of Tomorrow club. The club has no requirements for membership - you can still be a member of the club without being in Kappa Delta Pi.

Teachers of Tomorrow helps education students prepare for their career with networking opportunities and resume boosters, especially after partnering with Kappa Delta Pi. Having such a prestigious honors society on your resume can really help beef up your resume. Teachers of Tomorrow is a great way to get involved on campus, meet new people, and leave your mark on Concordia. E-mail Cara Schmidtke (schmidt3@csp.edu) to get involved today. †



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## Flu Shot Facts: *Scientific Evidence that Vaccines Are a Good Thing*

BY BRIANNA HOLTMEIER

**A**ccording to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year." With that factual, declarative sentence, it is hard to believe that the CDC found that 47 percent of people ages six months and older opt out of receiving a flu vaccination each year. The popular reasons behind the avoidance of this annual vaccine are easily discredited by scientific explanations below.

First of all, how does the flu vaccination work? Unless you have learned

about immunology, the information about the vaccine's mechanism is not readily available. In layman's terms, the vaccination introduces either three or four inactivated flu viruses (weakened live viruses in the nasal spray vaccine) into the body. The body's immune system recognizes the foreign material, kicks in and produces antibodies to get rid of the foreign virus. It takes about two weeks for the immune system to develop the antibodies and have a line of defense ready for a live flu virus.

A flu myth commonly believed is

that the flu shot gives you the flu. False. As your immune system is focused on coming up with a weapon (antibodies) to kill the inactive flu virus, the rest of your body is more susceptible to getting sick from other viruses. During the two-week period after your flu shot, make sure to take extra care washing your hands and practicing good hygiene to help out your currently busy immune system.

Another factor that may be preventing you from protecting yourself against the flu may be the cost of a flu shot. Lucky for health

insurance holders, it is free! As a pharmacy technician, I have never come across an insurance company that fails to cover a flu shot. This further shows the value of a flu shot: even insurance companies, who sometimes have fickle coverage, want their customers to be immunized against influenza because it helps prevent more costs, such as hospitalizations from severe cases of the flu.

Even if you have never gotten the flu shot and have been fortunate enough to

escape the flu, you may have been a carrier of the virus and passed it on to others. The passing on, or transmission, can occur in many different ways that we are almost always unaware of. Different ways include indirect transmission between two people by an inanimate object (utensils, tissues, money, bedding, etc) or vehicle transmission (food, water, or air). It is especially important to be immunized against the flu if you work with or come in contact with young children or elderly folks, as they have the weakest immune systems and are

the most likely to suffer from severe cases of influenza.

While the effectiveness of the flu vaccine varies from year to year, it still provides protection against hospitalization and even death from this virus. The effectiveness of the vaccine this past year was so low because the viruses in the vaccine are different from the circulating viruses.

Although the flu season is slowing down now, make sure to keep these flu shot facts and explanations in mind for next season, which starts in October. †



# OPINION

## Creativity in Modern Media

BY: MATHEW IUNG

Modern media and our contemporary moment have allowed people's creativity and passions to reach a wide variety of people all over the world and for the most part, this is a good thing. Platforms such as Instagram have become a space where people and artists can gain a following and share their work without having to deal with things like distribution or publication. Some websites help fund people's passions through crowdsourcing, and we live in the age of the startup. Creativity is not limited to writing, painting or sculpting.

A cool example of using modern media creatively is the twitter adaptation of #THEMOSTDANGEROUSGAME. For those unfamiliar, *The Most Dangerous Game*, by Richard Connell, is a story about a man who finds himself hunted for sport on an island. The twitter adaptation is meant to be from the main character and moments from the story are broken down anachronistically and in 120 characters. It's a very funny way to intake the story and the writer, Jake Swearingen, has a really good handle on what to do with only 120 characters or less. It was also sent out as if the main narrator was live-tweeting it. It's little projects like these that emphasize simple creativity.

Almost anyone can be an amateur photographer or filmmaker these days. The phone in my back pocket can shoot, edit, and post my projects as they are finished. The idea of short storytelling has gained another form through apps such as Vine or the ten-second videos that scroll across your Facebook feed. Creativity is not limited to the traditional arts; even the more non-traditional starting business can be a creative venture.

In the digital realm building, a website is just as much an art as it is a skill. There are people designing games and mobile apps both independently and for well-known companies. These games have messages through narrative and visuals that can be abstract or rendered to resemble our reality. With the advent of virtual reality gaming, there are even more ways for counselors to create the technology that they are using.

There is no end to the creative ideas that can be found with just a few keystrokes. On YouTube, there are people cooking, building things, and showing you how to do it too. Often it can be overlooked but creativity is everywhere. Even the nice people that make your lattes have found ways to incorporate a bit of art into their profession. †

## Will It to Existence: Taking Control Over Your Own Happiness

BY VICTORIA TURCIOS

As I sat down to write this article, I found out my car was towed. I could have gotten upset about it, but instead, I am doing the complete opposite. I sat down at the new co-working space for women in the North Loop, The Coven and finalized a paper for my online Art History course; I took deep breaths because aside from getting my car towed, it was a sunny, warm, and productive day in Minneapolis. The only thing I had control over was my reaction and attitude to the situation. Things could have certainly been worse.

Have you heard the idea of positive thoughts attracting positive results? Not to get sappy, I am slowly coming to realize that our mindsets have a lot to do with not only our happiness, but the success in our lives.

A mindset changes everything. Good vibrations, as well as willing things into existence, are certainly related as well. Remember those New Year's resolutions you might have made back in December? Maybe one of those resolutions had to do with being happier or less stressed. Truth be told, according to statistics by Statistic Brain Research Institute, 12.3 percent of participants on a New Year's resolution poll for 2017 mentioned that making life improvements was one of the things on their year's to-do list. While thinking positively wasn't a part of that description, being happy starts with one key aspect of your life: you.

My New Year's resolutions revolved around traveling, having less stress, and cultivating the good vibes life has to give. I realized that there wasn't any other way for me to achieve these things than to will them into existence. So I did; I visited Chicago for the first time over spring break, all with the sole purpose of wanting to travel more and willing myself to do so. While this isn't the only example I could give you, I've noticed that changing my behavior towards anything that comes up in my life, or focusing my energy and time into achieving things I want, brings me results. Google, "How to be happy." The search engine brings about 635,000,000 hits for the search. These statistics are depressing because it shows the collective struggle through the pursuit of happiness as real. Maybe the reason for being unhappy ultimately falls not on Google, but on our own shoulders, combined with the thousands of self-help books one could buy on Amazon or those New Year's resolutions we forget about.

Nancy Etcoff explained during her Ted Talk, Happiness and Its Surprises in 2014, "People are happiest when in flow, when they're absorbed in something out in the world, when they're with other people, when they're active, engaged in sports, focusing on a loved one, learning, having sex, whatever." You can be happy doing just about anything but when "life happens," don't use it as a scapegoat. Take a second to understand the situation, grasp it, and if you don't like something about it, change it. Begin to will that positivity and happiness you seek into reality.

While life certainly does happen (as I experienced today), it doesn't mean your stress or bad mood are etched in stone. It's all in your head. While controlling everything in life is impossible, pursuing happiness is the complete opposite. †

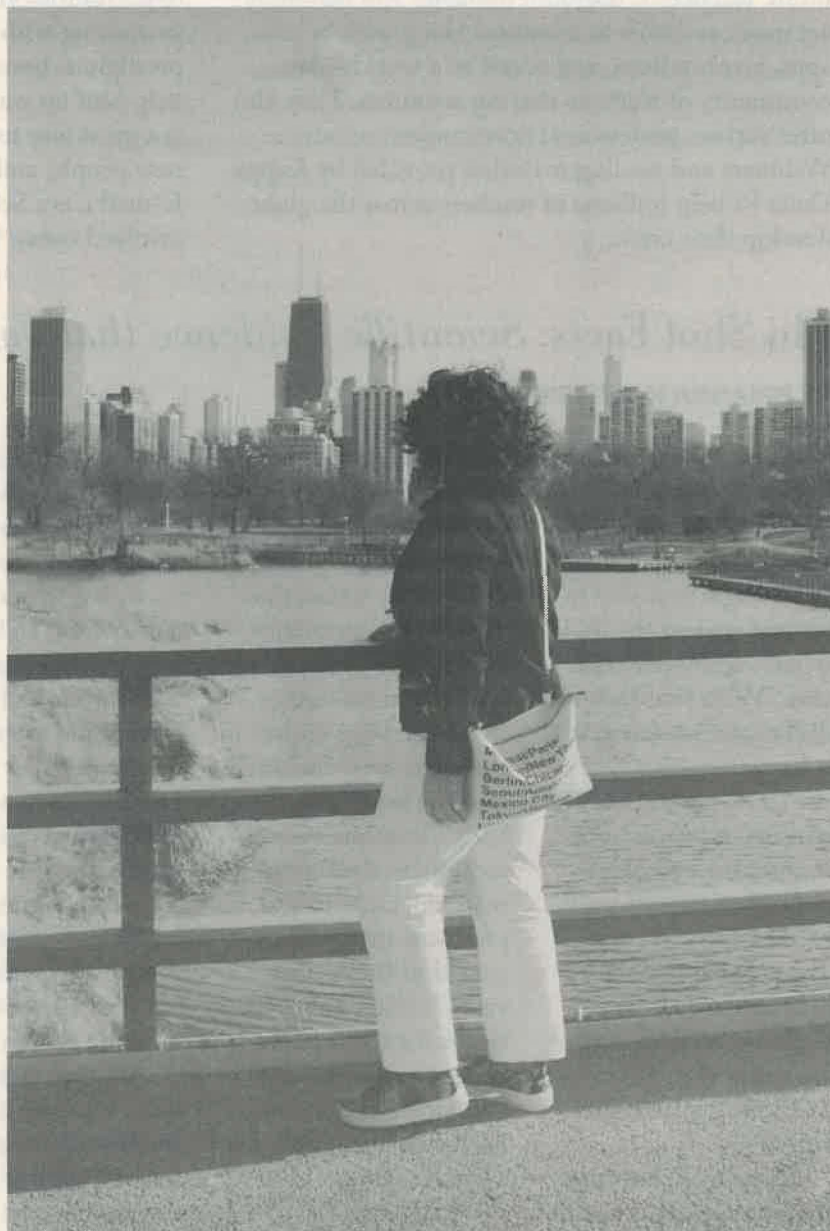


Photo By Victoria Turcios



## Congressional Maps and Gerrymandering: Who Should Draw Districts?

BY RILEY EDLING

Congressional mapping has gotten a lot of attention lately due to its controversial (and illegal) siding to a political war between Democrats and Republicans. In most states, the state legislature has primary control of the redistricting process. The state legislature comprises of bicameral bodies of senators and representatives (some states distinguish between different names, ex. Wisconsin- "Assembly"). From here, congressional districts are based on population. Some states such as California and Texas will hold more seats than Minnesota or Wisconsin; meaning, they will hold more districts. The population for every state is constantly changing, which in turn means the lines for these districts are subject to change after the consensus.

This is where the controversy enters. Redistricting is supposed to be based on population and to ensure fair political power between districts, right? Wrong. Some states have taken advantage of redistricting by drawing the lines to favor the political party (and even drawing lines based on the population race) that runs the legislature. This highly illegal power move is referred to as "gerrymandering". The power struggle between Democrats and Republicans has caused some states to overpower the opposing party by gerrymandering to ensure they hold the legislature majority. This, in turn, causes unfair political advantages when voting.

It is taking power away from the people and abusing the system that was meant to be constitutional. But just because a district was



Photo By Washington Post

gerrymandered, it doesn't mean that the party drawing the lines is going to win it; the main purpose is to eliminate the opposing parties number of "safe seats." According to *The Washington Post*, nine of the ten most

gerrymandered districts were won by Democrats yet drawn by Republicans. You may be thinking it doesn't sound like gerrymandering gives a very big advantage, but it does.

North Carolina holds three of the ten most gerrymandered districts. Republicans drew skinny, snake-shaped districts that stretched across the state, covering cities that pocketed high dense populations of Democrats. Well, these three districts were won by Democrats but unfortunately held most of the state's Democrats, allowing Republicans to snag nine of the thirteen districts.

The big question to the people is who should be drawing these lines. Now some states have their rules to prevent gerrymandering from happening, but the focus is on changing the state's rules where it occurs. Should Independent commissions draw the lines? Should non-legislators take part in drafting the new districts? There is no direct answer, but the moral of it all is that gerrymandering is illegal and needs to be fixed, regardless of what means they choose. To you the reader, your voice means something, especially in large spoken groups. Politicians need to know that they cannot control the law or take the power away from the people. †

## Preventing School Shootings

BY FARHA IBRAHIM

On Wednesday, February 14, 2018, a 19-year-old man walked into Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida and killed 17 people. Who is to blame?

The shooter? He committed the crime and is solely responsible for the death of the 17 children. He chose to go into the school and commit this crime. He and he alone is to be blamed for this. But, what did he use to commit that crime? A firearm.

Firearms are to blame. The man is 19 years old, which is above the legal age to purchase a firearm in Florida at the time. So, why firearms were that easily accessible. Firearms are accessible for the use of protection, which sparks the question, "Who was this man protecting when he entered the school with the firearm?" No one. He purchased the firearm with the intent of hurting, not to protect himself or anyone else. However, there is not a way for someone to know what a person's intent is when they purchase a firearm. But, we cannot forget the shooter. It is not the device that kills; it is the person.

Perhaps legislation? Should there have been preventative measures put in place before someone is allowed to obtain a firearm? If background checks and psychological evaluations are given pre-purchase to every buyer, would that fix the problem? Buyers must show some capacity of sanity, maturity, and control before being able to handle a firearm. However, there has been much resistance from our government to pass any effective gun-control legislation.

We are the problem. Although this may appear to be a legislation issue, it is far deeper than that. Mass shootings have been a problem for years, according to the article "After Sandy Hook, More than 400 People Have Been Shot in Over 200 School Shootings". Everyone is sad on the day of a shooting, but no measures are taken to prevent it from happening. It is a repetitive cycle: shooting occurs; we get sad; we argue about the issue for a while, and we move on.

We stop trying trying is the very least we can do. We are so quick to point the finger at anything or anyone instead of looking at ourselves. The amount of excuses [from school safety to no gun-control distracts everyone from the lack of action from both the politicians and citizens. All of these excuses for not trying contribute to the exponential decay of effort. At what point do we stop caring? At some point, you or someone you love will be in the crosshairs due to consistent inaction. Is that where we are now?

People may argue against me by blaming the NRA for its influence on politicians to prevent gun-control legislation. The idea that five million members of the NRA can heavily influence over 300 million people in this country is unrealistic. Yet, it is another excuse to shift the conversation away from the lack of inaction.

The aftermath of this most recent shooting is possibly the closest this country has come in recent years to springing to action. The students of Stoneman Douglas High School refused to allow the cycle of inaction to continue, and they are just getting started. Hopefully, these children will be the catalyst that invokes the action from politicians and other citizens. If we want to prevent another school shooting, we must take action like these students. If we don't, the cycle will continue until we are completely desensitized to the tragedies. †



# OPINION

## Tax Per Mileage

BY JORDAN PEISER

There's a new idea which has recently been supported by the Trump White House. This idea is already under a test run in Portland Oregon, and the federal government – if this were implemented – would invest \$200 billion nationwide to get it started.

This plan boasts that it can, over time, earn the United States at least \$1.5 trillion if done on a national scale. This money would go to improving America's infrastructure, which is in bad shape and is—as to be expected—deteriorating. It further boasts the benefit of the government being able to give credit towards the cost of gas taxes throughout the nation as is done in Portland

currently according to The Hill.

So, what is this new plan? The plan is a roughly 1.7 cent tax on drivers for each mile they drive on the nation's public roads.

At this moment, some might be thinking, "Oh great just what we need another tax," but what can't be avoided is the issue that, whatever we do, something needs to be done about America's failing infrastructure.

According to the same article from The Hill, the Highway Trust Fund receives most of its revenue from, "the 18.4-cent-per-gallon gas tax, which has not been raised in twenty-five years. As a result, the fund's purchasing power has eroded over time, and the fund is

heading for another shortfall at the end of 2020." What that means is this organization does not have the funding it needs to maintain this part of the infrastructure of our nation.

According to the same article, it is true that, "Democrats have denounced the \$200 billion as too low a number to have a meaningful impact on a rebuilding initiative." In other words, according to The Hill, their main concern with the bill is that it is simply too small a move to help fix all of our infrastructure problems.

However, it should be noted that while some economists are suggesting the solution is simply to up the tax on the gas again we are moving towards

increased use of more efficient vehicles and electric cars, which presents yet another gas tax as a less-than-ideal solution to the problem.

Is a tax on the use of public roads the solution? At this point, I think it is much too early to tell. For a more clear answer, we should wait to see how effective it is in Portland and California where, according to the California Department of Transportation, they are working on signing a bill that would institute it there.

In the meantime, our government can reallocate some of the spending it places into our nation's military or other sources to help pay for improving our infrastructure. †

## The Formation of Reality: Russia's Contemporary Theory of War

BY KELLY PIERCE

Perception is the foundation of reality. Everyone sees the world a little bit differently; my subjective reality is different than yours, the events in my life are different from yours, and I interpret them differently than you. We aren't living in one reality – we're living in billions of individual realities simultaneously interacting with each other.

In America, each subjective reality has an equal right to contribute to our governance by voting. So what if we base our reality on false events and information? Russian officials and Trump campaign affiliates were recently indicted for pushing false information in the 2016 election among other interference in foreign affairs.

From *The New York Times*: "The Russians stole the identities of American citizens, posed as political activists, and used the flashpoints of immigration, religion, and race to manipulate a campaign in which those issues were already particularly divisive."

In January of 2016, a Russian-German girl living in Berlin made national headlines. Lisa F. had been missing for about a week when news stories ran claiming she was kidnapped and repeatedly raped by three Arab immigrants.

However, when Lisa returned home, she told local reporters that she got in trouble at school and ran away. But it was too late – the story had already gripped the nation. Weeks later, 700+ were inspired by the fabricated story to gather outside the Chancellory in protest of recently instated immigration and refugee programs. Russian state news outlets in Russia Today and Sputnik both repeatedly perpetuated the story. They even ran a fake interview with her family members.

This story first exposed Russia's 21<sup>st</sup>-century philosophy of digital warfare. By pairing state media giants with fringe outlets, trolls, and AI generated bots, the state can effectively use social media as a tool to manipulate public opinion. This cyber attack was in response to Germany opening its borders to middle-eastern refugees.

Between October 2015 and April 2017, EUobserver recorded 2,951 fake news stories originating from Russian controlled bots, many of which employed taboo themes of sexuality to create an emotional response. Ever heard of the pizzagate scandal involving pedophilia in America? Russian bots are at the root of such misinformation aimed to discredit the Clinton campaign.

On Friday, January 19th, Twitter purged Russian bot accounts, leading to a widespread outcry of free-speech impositions from Republican twitter accounts. Twitter deleted millions of fake propaganda bots and sent out emails to 700,000+ users who endorsed the accounts. Trump himself lost 4 million bot followers in the #TwitterLockout.

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## Does the President Have too Much Power?

BY ZACK MOELLER

We are just passed one year of Donald Trump being inaugurated into the Oval Office, and many people still fear the same things as when the election process happened: Trump would abuse his power, run the country into trouble and, start fights that we don't want. So far nothing too extreme has occurred, but it still seems a very real possibility at times. This brings up the question: does the president have too much power? Surprisingly enough, people are very split on this subject. Yes, the president is the most powerful person in our country, but is it too much? To be honest, before this article, I (like probably most people) didn't know enough about the subject to give my two cents. So, I did some research and here is what I found:

The president is not as powerful as everybody thinks he is, for a few reasons. The main reason is checks and balances; although the president can give a regular veto any bill that he doesn't like, Congress can override any presidential veto with a two-thirds vote. The president also doesn't decide what laws will be enacted, but he does have the power to set the agenda. He can determine what Congress focuses on but has little power after that. It also depends on what party the majority of the people in Congress

belong to. The majority of Congress in Trump's case is republicans, so the president will have an extremely hard time establishing any bills that are not in the other party's favor.

The president also cannot officially declare war. He has the power to send troops to battle, but the number of troops is limited. In all aspects, the president struggles to do anything of super importance without the help of Congress. This is not a flaw. However, this is by design. When the constitution was built for this country, the makers had one thing in mind, which was to keep any one person from having too much power. This is why we have checks and balances today. They keep any one person or group from having too much power.

The president is the single most powerful person in the United States, but his power can be controlled and balanced by other parts of the government. A president's true power comes in the form of leadership. A president with great leadership, the ability to get people to buy into him and follow his lead is most powerful president possible, regardless of any restrictions. †



...continued from page 10

The American people first got wind of collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign when Eric Trump Jr.'s emails with a Russian ambassador became public. In response to being offered dirt on Hillary Clinton, Trump Jr. responded, "If that's what you say, I love it." He then forwarded the emails to brother-in-law and Senior White House Advisor Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort - who was recently indicted for his collusion with Russia.

As a result of the same investigation that indicted Manafort, 13 Russian officials were charged with interference in the 2016 election. An investigation headed by Robert Mueller unveiled a sophisticated network of foreign officials aiding the Trump campaign with propaganda and misinformation.

It's no longer a question of whether or not Russia interfered with our election - they shifted the perspective of the American people. But as we live in the midst of a worldwide information war, the challenge lies in exposing the truth and convincing vehement red-pill voters they were manipulated - which is easier said than done.

In this post-fact era of politics, it's more important now than ever that we question our sources and think critically before adopting opinions and views as our own, lest we inadvertently take the red pill and immerse ourselves in the matrix of post-fact politics. †

## Is The Influence of Labor Unions Too Great?

BY JORDAN PEISER

Many of us take labor unions for granted. Most of us know that, at one time, unions were absolutely vital in ending child labor, abuse of employees, poor working conditions, and inadequate pay.

However, many today—especially major corporations (big surprise)—think labor unions are too strong and abuse their power. Well, according to *The New York Post*, the Supreme Court is considering a law that exists in 22 states which, "force[s] public employees who do not want to belong to unions to pay unions 'agency fees' for bargaining collectively on their behalf." The concern

here is that some employees trust their companies to take care of them and don't like union fees, which they view as going against the original point of unions.

Of further importance is that, without the required fee, the unions would lose income, and therefore, political influence. According to the same article, "Today, 67.4 percent of public employees in New York belong to unions; the highest rate in the country membership translates into money. New York's unions collect over \$860 million a year from some one million government employees."

This revenue has also

## One Bad Apple Ruins the Bunch: Perversions and Manipulations of #MeToo

BY KELLY PIERCE

The #MeToo movement has swept the nation and is responsible for putting many sexual offenders behind bars. Every woman should feel they can safely speak out about sexual assault, and that is what's wonderful about the movement. But like in any social movement, some people are spreading the wrong message.

#MeToo brought down the likes of Harvey Weinstein and Larry Nassar. Both are reprehensible pieces of human garbage who abused their position of authority to exploit vulnerable women. Pretty much everyone agrees that they should burn in hell.

But that's just it - everyone knows how horrible these acts were. #MeToo helped expose them, but if you look deeper, #MeToo isn't just about sexual misdeeds - it's about work.

Rebecca Traister argues in her article for *The Cut* that sexual harassment in the workplace is a form of sexist discrimination. I wholeheartedly agree with this statement for most situations. Traister reaches too far later on by connecting that idea to the wage gap.

The wage gap has been definitively proven to be a myth - any worthy academic knows this, yet we still have people clamoring that it exists. Why? Because there's still an imbalance of power; it's just too complicated to be reduced to a wage gap. #MeToo is helping to restore that balance by liberating women from sexual exploitation in the workplace.

But still, the resistance for #MeToo grows stronger every day. Insecure, scared males are quick to criticize the movement for "overreaching." From their perspective, this concern is valid - here's why:

Consider the predicament of Aziz Ansari, champion of feminist ideals and equality. Not only did this situation have nothing to do with workplace harassment, it was also not a case of assault or harassment. It was just an awkward sexual encounter, and babe.net (the outlet that released it)

was trying to cash in on the movement gripping the nation.

The fault doesn't lie with the resistance. The fault lies with the women who twist their experience to fit the narrative. Insecure men see this situation as validation that #MeToo is an exaggerated movement encouraging women to smear men in the workplace.

Now consider Ryan Seacrest's situation: a week before the Oscars, the talk show host's former stylist, Suzie Hardy, approached him with an offer. She threatened to make false claims to the press unless he paid her \$15 million. Seacrest refused, instead choosing to deny the claims publicly and cooperate with a third-party investigation. Investigators found no factual evidence to support Hardy's claims.

Hardy didn't just try to force the narrative; she tried to manipulate it. This situation gives the skeptics even more solid ground to stand on - perceived evidence that the movement has gone too far. In doing so, it betrays the true champions of equality.

#MeToo is all about empathy. It allows women everywhere to come together and take a stand against sexual misconduct. #MeToo is an umbrella encompassing the many ways womankind has been afflicted. Traitors like Suzie Hardy turn their back on the movement - they abuse that common association. And when they're found out, people look at their misdeeds and attribute them to the whole movement.

#MeToo is a weapon pointed at the head of corporate male superiority, but it only works when everyone uses it properly. When one woman pulls the trigger for the wrong reason, the entire movement suffers. It won't be sullen, frustrated white males that ruin this movement - it will be the self-righteous, indignant, privileged women cashing in on an opportunity for gain. †

allowed these unions to have a lot of lobbying power. Again, the same article explains, "New York government unions spent \$43.2 million on lobbying state and local governments, which is more than the four largest private-sector interests (hospitals, real estate, tobacco, and trial lawyers) combined."

But public unions don't just seek to influence already elected officials; they also seek to determine who gets elected. From 2013 to 2016, New York's government unions spent more than \$52 million on state and local elections, according to the Empire Center."

This conversation

that has now come to the forefront for the US Supreme court has far-reaching consequences that don't end with government employees being required to pay union fees; it carries the implication of changing political influence. Some are even arguing that this is also a

conversation about First Amendment rights.

With all of that in mind, unions are still important and should still be kept and protected. However, we might need to consider the possibility that unions might have gained too much political influence. †



# THE SWORD

## Lightbringer

BY TIMOTHY PETERSON

*Winner of the Kaden Award for Best Short Story*

### CHICAGO - PRESENT DAY

The room was bathed red in the alarm clock's blinking light. It was four in the morning, and time was moving as consistently as it ever had. Sixty seconds to a minute, sixty minutes to an hour. Two hours till sunrise. Two hours till safety. The tiny two-room apartment was still and quiet, but the outside world clamored as loud as ever. The sub from a nightclub down the street, the washing machine down the hall. A street fight. A couple enjoying a very aggressive game of full-contact chess. These sounds were routine, but I listened carefully nonetheless from my pool of sweat on the dingy twin mattress. Every click, every shout, every footstep was analyzed, considered carefully, and eventually dismissed. My eyes flickered slowly. My blinks became longer. I resigned myself to listen with my eyes closed. It wasn't long before my mind was balancing on the brink of unconsciousness.

Then, breaking the usual din like a crack of thunder, the faint whine of an infant called from the adjacent room. *Adelaide*. I shot up from my bed like lightning, tearing across the floor and bursting through the door to the nursery. There, standing over the crib, four red eyes staring at me and six furry demon arms cradling my baby angel in its glinting, black, obsidian claws. The demon let out a snarl and hurled the crib at me before tearing back out the window it came from. The crib connected with my chest, knocking the wind out of me and blocking the doorway.

Gasping for air, I clawed at the crib, moving it out of my path and desperately following the demon out the window. I unfurled my gigantic black wings and flapped hard. I looked down. Nothing. I looked up. Just in time, I saw the black streak of fur scabble up and over the top of the roof. Two flaps and I was over the top of the roof. The demon was running hard, holding *Adelaide* with one arm while running, gorilla style with the other five. I swooped down until I was right behind it, then kicked with all my might into the back of its head. The force caused its arms to release its grip on *Adelaide*, casting her in an arc over the side of the building and down to the alley below. My heart sank to the bottom of my stomach. There was a maximum of four seconds before she would hit the ground. I pulled my wings into my body and dove straight for her. *One*. The alley is abandoned. There was no one to help. *Two*. I was an arm's length away, scrabbling for the edge of her blanket wrapping. *Three*. The blanket unraveled in my hands. She was slipping away. *Four*. There wasn't enough time to grab her. In a last-ditch effort, I pushed with my wings as hard as I could, wrapping my arms around her, rotating 180 degrees, and slamming back first into the pavement. *Adelaide* cried in shock, and her tiny snow-white wings shook in terror. My entire body coursed with pain. My head throbbed like a jackhammer. I was positive I was dying. But my baby daughter was alive.

"Nice to see you again, Lucifer." The voice sent chills through my shattered spine. The body attached to the voice appeared over my body. *Legion*. With one eye gone and his jaw held together with bolts, he looked like a failed science experiment. He wasn't like the other demons. He was a converted human. Several other of the six armed ones crowded around him so tightly together I could barely see the sky above. I couldn't breathe. My vision was blurry. Vaguely, I felt my sweet Addie being pried from my arms. I tried with all my strength to hold on, but it was no use. *Legion* held a wood baseball bat in his hand. All at

once it came alive with ethereal red flames. He spun it once, admiring its weight and balance before bringing it down straight onto my face, sending me into oblivion.

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The wind whipped my hair into a frenzy as I sped down the Utah interstate in the stolen Corvette Convertible. I was pushing 110 miles per hour, but it still wasn't fast enough. I passed a speed trap, and soon enough, the brave cop was making his way to catch up to me, lights flashing and horns blaring. I stopped with a sigh, bringing the car over to the shoulder. The cop wasted no time hustling out of his vehicle and over to mine. He had started his chew-out before even reaching my car, spitting out every dramatic phrase he could to inform me of how aggravated he was. I didn't have time to deal with this. I sighed in frustration and handed him my driver's license, which had my picture and information, just like any other's, but was stamped with a dark red pentagram watermark that shifted and shimmered in the background while slowly dripping blood. He froze, mouth agape while he stared at the ethereal spectacle in his hand. Knowing he would stay rooted there in terror for the rest of the day, I pried my license out of his shaking death grip and started my car.

"Have a nice day," I said before burning rubber back onto the freeway. The sun was almost completely below the horizon. I had an hour to go before I would reach Las Vegas. Being half demon, I had recovered from my beating in one day. It had taken me almost another full day to drive from Chicago to Las Vegas. 48 hours was a lot of time. A knot formed in my stomach and I silently prayed I wasn't too late.

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He wasn't hard to find. I grew up in Las Vegas, and so I knew all his favorite places. Even if I didn't, it wouldn't have been that hard. All you had to do was find the biggest casino, the wildest women, the brashest company and there he was. Also, the copious amounts of red smoke pouring from the casino helped. It was invisible to normal humans, but I could see it. Demons know demons.

I walked to the front entrance, sticking to the shadows, katana clipped securely to my belt. The VIPs and bouncers didn't notice me, and I slipped quickly and quietly into the thick of the casino. Ignoring the flashing lights and sounds, I strode to the back to a semi-hidden, jet black elevator. A single guard stood in front of it, staring me down through plain black sunglasses. I attempted to punch the button, but his hand shot out and stopped me.

"I'm sorry, sir. This is a restricted area." I removed my own sunglasses and stared into his eyes with all the fire I felt inside. The corner of his lip twitched a fraction of an inch.

"This is family business," I whispered. He swallowed hard, turned and walked away. I smelled the faint odor of piss and cracked a half smile as I punched the button and stepped inside. There were two buttons in the elevator. One unmarked at the top, and one marked "HELP" near the bottom. That one



# THE SWORD

didn't do anything though. It was his idea of a joke. I hit the top one and braced myself as the carriage screamed upwards to the 666th floor. The music playing in the background was the strangest combination of elevator music and metal. It made me nauseous. Thirty short seconds later, it came to a smooth stop. There was a pleasant ding as the doors opened into Satan's private harem.

The smell hit like a brick to the stomach. Heavy and hot and sickening and sweet, the air tasted of blood and low-quality chocolate and pineapple e-cig juice all at the same time. I threw up in the back of my mouth. No one even noticed as I stepped out of the elevator and into the massive suite. There was a smattering of VIPs, and seven-foot demons crowded around poker tables and roulette wheels. Strippers lined the walls, dancing voraciously on smooth gold poles. The floor was solid gold. The ceiling was decorated generously with crystal chandeliers. And in the center of it all: the main event. The "big man downstairs." The almighty father below. I walked down the red carpet that led right to his elevated, obsidian and gold throne. He was dressed in an expensive suit, with a custom hole in the back to accommodate for his spiky red tail. He drew deeply from a cigar and eyed me slowly from shiny red sunglasses. I stood at the foot of the throne.

"Hello, son," he said in his deep, silky voice.

"Shut up," I said. "Where is *Adelaide*." It was not a question. It was a command. He shifted angrily and spoke with a new edge in his words.

"I thought I taught you to have more respect than that, Luce."

"Where. Is. Addie." I repeated.

"Safe," he replied. He tapped a button on the arm of the throne, and a panel in the floor in front of me slid open. A capsule made of glass and metal rose up. Inside, connected to dozens of wires and tubes was my baby angel.

"*Adelaide*," I whispered.

"I thought it would be rude to start without you," he explained.

"What the hell have you done to her?!" I screamed. Satan winced and made a calming gesture with his hand.

"Nothing, yet. Calm down. She's fine. And she will still be fine after the procedure." He stood up and walked down the steps until he stood on the other side of the capsule.

"What procedure?" I asked, not really wanting to know.

"I'm taking her innocence, Lucifer. It's useful for so many things. And so hard to find nowadays... I'm afraid it's being stolen earlier and earlier. I've had no choice to go straight to the source. Most children's innocence is just fine. But your child..." He took off his sunglasses and ran his finger along the glass while deeply inhaling as if smelling a fine wine or an expensive cigar. "Oh, she's something special. Don't ask me how it happened - a scrap of shit like you making this beautiful thing but my is she ever gorgeous. The highest concentration of innocence I've ever seen." He broke out of his trance and returned his gaze to me. "That's all I want. Once I finish you can have her right back."

"You are not going to do this," I said. He sighed and signaled to several of the six arm demons from the poker tables.

"I was afraid you would say that." They caught me off guard, punching me in

the stomach and carrying me towards the elevator. Out of my peripheral vision, I saw Satan pull the switch on the machine. It started to glow with red light, and a low hum rose above the noise of the party. Not one of the guests noticed. In fact, they laughed harder, drank more, and gambled more furiously than before. The distorted sounds of their shrieks and laughter competed against the machine for the dominant noise in the room.

I ripped out one of the eyes of the demon carrying me, and it dropped me on the floor with a howl. I drew my Katana, blazing with blue flames and slashed the first four demons around me to pieces. A hundred more demons appeared. It seemed impossible that so many could be packed into a small space, but they kept coming. I desperately fought my way through the sea of black fur and fangs to get to Addie. It was taking too long. I could hear her first cries beginning to rise above the clamor. The sound of her pain split my heart in two. I roared and fought harder than ever before. Waves of light shot out of my katana, dismembering my foes twenty at a time. What demons I did not kill fled in terror. My eyes blazed blue as I ran forward once again to the capsule.

There was one demon left standing before me. *Legion's* eyes blazed red. From his hip, he drew his katana. It came alive, arcs of red lightning shooting from it. Deep in his eyes, behind the fury I saw fear, undermining his strength. With one stroke of my sword, I sliced his in half with an ear-splitting clang. His mask of confidence fell. He threw the hilt to the ground and ran out of the suite.

Satan stared at me, expressionless from behind his sunglasses. I raised my sword and brought it down to break the glass and free *Adelaide*, but his tail, hard as steel, stopped my blade. He frowned and made a disapproving clicking noise. I sheathed my katana and instead pulled out my reserve revolver.

I put six silver bullets into his body. Two through his eyes, two through his chest, and two through his knees. *Adelaide* was still wailing. I shut down the machine and clawed the glass open. As gently as I could, I pulled the intubations from her tiny body and lifted her once again into my arms. Tears ran down my cheeks and onto her shoulders. Her little white wings were singed black and smoking. Suddenly sick with grief, I threw the revolver to the floor. I looked at Satan, writing pathetically on the floor in wordless pain.

"Don't ever come near my family or me again."

///

That was the last time I saw my father, though that's not to say that was the end of the trouble he caused. *Adelaide* made a complete recovery. She grew up to be a strong, healthy woman, and one of the best demon hunters the world has ever seen. Though her white wings never returned, she always said she preferred matching with my dark gray anyway. We took up vigilante work, attempting to reverse the effects of my Satan's work on the world. Together we are kicking ass and living happily ever after. †



## SPORTS



Photo provided by Justin Oakman

## Golden Bears Track and Field Continue to Improve

BY KELLY PIERCE

The Golden Bears men's and women's track teams wrapped up the indoor season at the NSIC Indoor Championships at Minnesota State. Both teams finished in eighth place, fueled by standout athletes. Kalle Burney and Wakpor Ighovojah qualified for nationals with their performances in the NSIC Multi-Event Championships.

The men's squad posted a strong performance on the final day of the tournament with thirty-one points – they finished with 49.5.

Benjamin Allen had a strong performance, contributing twenty-four team points. Allen beat his own school record in the mile with a time of 4:12.14s, good for second place and eight team points. He also took second in the 800-meter run, adding another eight team points with a time of 1:54.37s. Allen earned All-NSIC honors for both events.

Allen wasn't the only one to beat his own record: Caleb Troe bested his 5000-meter

time from last year's indoor championships by seven seconds with a time of 15:02.94s. Troe picked up an eighth place for his performance.

Marcus Gustaveson earned All-NSIC honors for his third-place finish in the shot. Gustaveson, standout wide-receiver for the football team, cleared 52'2.00" for six more team points. In addition to his 4x400 performance, teammate Desmond Bassett also took seventh in the 600-meter run with a time of 1:24.87s.

Lajuan Preston, another Golden Bear football player, capped his debut season with an eighth-place finish in the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash with times of 7.01 and 22.50 seconds respectively.

The women's team sat in fourth place after the first day, but finished in eighth with 34.5 points.

Toni Canfall and Erika Shady both posted strong performances. Shady scored four points in the pole vault, clearing 10'9.00" for fourth

place. Canfall took fifth in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.80 seconds in her first NSIC Championship performance.

Wakpor Ighovojah locked in two team points with a seventh-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.95s. Ighovojah contributed 19 points overall.

Ighovojah and teammate Kalle Burney added to their list of feats, qualifying for indoor nationals yet again. Burney became the first CSP athlete, male or female, to be a three-time qualifier at the national competition. Ighovojah is taking her second trip to nationals. The pair will be competing in the pentathlon, the same event they qualified for last year. The pair looks to cement their place in CSP history with a strong performance at nationals.

Burney and Ighovojah will prepare for the championships on March 9-10<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh, Kansas. The rest of the team is beginning preparation for the outdoor season. †

## CSP Lacrosse Starts Season Strong

BY COLE SCHUESSLER

As a second-year program, Concordia lacrosse isn't looking for any excuses. After an 8–8 season in 2017, the Golden Bears lacrosse team burst out to a 3–1 start to the season. Returning nearly all starters from last year, production has come from both veterans and some of the few newcomers to the team. The improvement that the Golden Bears have shown in the early stages of the season will soon be tested by their first season of their new participation in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC).

Playing at home in the Concordia Sea Foam Stadium with the bleachers packed to the brim, the Golden Bears struck first against Lions, as senior captain Kalle Lavalle scored just a minute and a half into the game. Lindenwood scored six straight goals to take control of the game, but CSP put up a fight in a 19–7 loss. Freshman midfielder Raelyn Korinek lead Concordia with three goals in her debut.

The Golden Bears were next in action February 26<sup>th</sup> in Tennessee, facing Tusculum College. They collected their first win of the season, topping the Pioneers 13–11. Sophomores Kailey Heintz, Alina Boyce, and Maddie Hentges all recorded three points in the victory, as Boyce and Heintz netted three goals while Hentges added two goals and an assist. Mars Hill (N.C.) was next to matchup with Golden Bears on February 28<sup>th</sup>. CSP again showed their ability to score goals, picking up their second win of the season by a score of 18–3. Ten Golden Bears scored at least one goal in the contest, with Korinek recording five and Heintz netting three. After weather conditions forced cancellation of Concordia's game versus Southern Wesleyan (S.C.), the Golden Bears finished off their road trip with a contest against Wingate (N.C.) on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The journey was completed undefeated, as the Golden Bears topped the Bulldogs 10–9 behind four more goals from Hentges and three from Boyce.

Hentges (13 points), Boyce (10 points), Heintz (9 points), Korinek (9 points), and LaValle (8 points) have all had a strong start to the season, leading the Golden Bears' offense. On the defensive side, freshman Lexi Stanley is leading field players with twelve ground balls and eight caused, while junior captain Sheala Osborne is close behind with eleven ground balls and seven caused turnovers. In net, the Golden Bears have given significant playing time to both sophomore Katie Lottsfeldt and freshman Claire Hagen. Lottsfeldt has racked up twenty-four saves and thirteen ground balls through four games while Hagen has a .667 save percentage and only six goals allowed in over 100 minutes of time in the net.

The rest of the season will pit the Golden Bears in matchups against GLIAC opponents, likely to put up more of a test for CSP's young squad. Concordia lacrosse has shown it has the talent to compete with some of the upper echelon schools in Division II, but we will soon find out if they can take it a step further in the win column in their second year as a program. †



Photo provided by Justin Oakman



## Men's and Women's Golf Looks to Start Spring Season with a Bang

BY TANNER PETERSON



Photo provided by SPX Sport Pix

The spring golf season should be a big time for the Concordia men's and women's golf programs to show off their improved game since the fall season, just a few months ago, Event Championships.

The women's golf team will begin their 2018 spring season at the MWSU Invitational in St. Joseph, Missouri at St. Joseph Golf Club. After the fall season, junior Sophie Hill has taken a major role as she had the team's best average round with an average of 78 strokes per round during the fall season, which firmly placed her 7<sup>th</sup> in the NSIC. The team remained fairly competitive as they finished the fall season 7<sup>th</sup> in the NSIC with a team average of 335.2. Pushing Hill will be a number of golfers such as juniors Sheridan McCoy and Kelsey Timm, sophomore Heather Claussen, and freshmen Emma Robertson, Erika Olson and Kacie Lansing.

McCoy, Claussen, Robertson, and Olson all competed for the

second spot on the squad as all four of their average scores ranged from 86.10 to 87.40. As the team continues to push each other, the scores in competition should show continued growth.

The men's golf program finished the fall season in the middle of the pack at the end of the fall season. Sophomore Noah Rasinski led the team with an average of 73.3, which, finished him 2<sup>nd</sup> among all NSIC golfers. His average score was only .2 shots behind Ian Mackenzie-Olson of Bemidji St. for the top spot in all of the NSIC. Rasinski also tied a number of other golfers for the lowest score of the entire fall season with a 68 in the Washburn Invitational in October.

Freshman Zack Taylor was a pivotal piece to the Golden Bears success during the fall season. The freshman maintained an average score of 77.83 which was good enough for 2<sup>nd</sup> best on the team during the fall season. He had a season-low of seventy, which

was his lone round below par. Rasinski was the only golfer on the Golden Bears squad who had more rounds under par, with four rounds. Along with Rasinski and Taylor, junior Tyler Dunn, sophomores Brian Peterson and Gavin Jocelyn, and freshmen Carson Wooters, Thomas Storbeck, Caleb Christensen, and Reece Armistead will all help to push the Golden Bears to the top of the conference. Wooters, Storbeck, Peterson, Christensen, Dunn, and Armistead all recorded average scores ranging from 79–83 during the fall season.

As the weather begins to warm up and the grass begins to turn green, both the men's and women's golf teams will push to put CSP near the top of the conference as the spring season starts. †

## Winter Olympics Recap

BY ZACK MOELLER

The 2018 Winter Olympic games have officially come to an end. The games, which were held in PyeongChang, South Korea, delivered on the promise to be a memorable one for years to come. The medal count was quite competitive between the countries, with Norway taking the most medals with 39 overall. Although the United States didn't finish at the top of the medal count, they still were able to win twenty-three medals with nine of them being gold. This total was good enough for fourth among the countries a very respectable finish. The Olympics are more than just counting medals; there were some fantastic stories throughout the two week stretch in PyeongChang.

Shaun White reclaimed the top spot in men's snowboard halfpipe after missing the podium in 2014 after suffering a career-threatening injury. White won the gold with his last run of the competition, a run that included back to back 1440s, a maneuver he didn't even practice because of danger, to take the lead with a score of 97.75 out of 100. The win brought White to emotional tears of joy and triumph as he celebrated with family. This win was the White's third gold medal, the most by a snowboarder in Olympic history and was the 100<sup>th</sup> gold medal won by the United States in the history of the Winter Olympics.

The United States Women's Hockey team also claimed the gold medal in their respective competition. The win gave the women's hockey team their first gold in twenty years. The victory came in exciting fashion as the team beat Canada in a shootout 3–2. Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson gave the team the go-ahead goal with a move that will go down in the history books as one of the best fakes ever. The double move put the goalie on her back and brought the fans to their feet. The championship game featured the US and Canada for the third straight year in what has become one of the greatest rivalries in sports. The women's hockey team also featured seven Minnesotans.

Finally, after almost being kicked out of the games altogether for doping scandals during the last games, Olympic athletes from Russia failed more drug tests this time around. The athletes weren't allowed to compete under their nation's flag due to a scandal in Sochi four years ago. They appear to have sunk themselves into an even deeper hole. Of all sports to fail a drug test, a Russian curler of all people managed to fail a drug test trying to enhance his sweeping to the next level. He was stripped of his bronze medal. A Russian bobsledder was also found to have illegal substances in their body. However, Russia could be reinstated if no more positive tests arose in PyeongChang.

This year's Olympics will also shined light on Minnesota, as the state represented the United States well, offering a total of twenty Olympians, making up an astounding 8 percent of the US Athletes. The 2018 Winter Games in PyeongChang will go down as yet another memorable time when the entire world sat down and enjoyed each other's company and competition. Be sure to tune in two years from now when the 2020 Summer Olympic Games go down Tokyo, Japan. †



Photo provided by David Ramos, The Daily Beast



## SPORTS

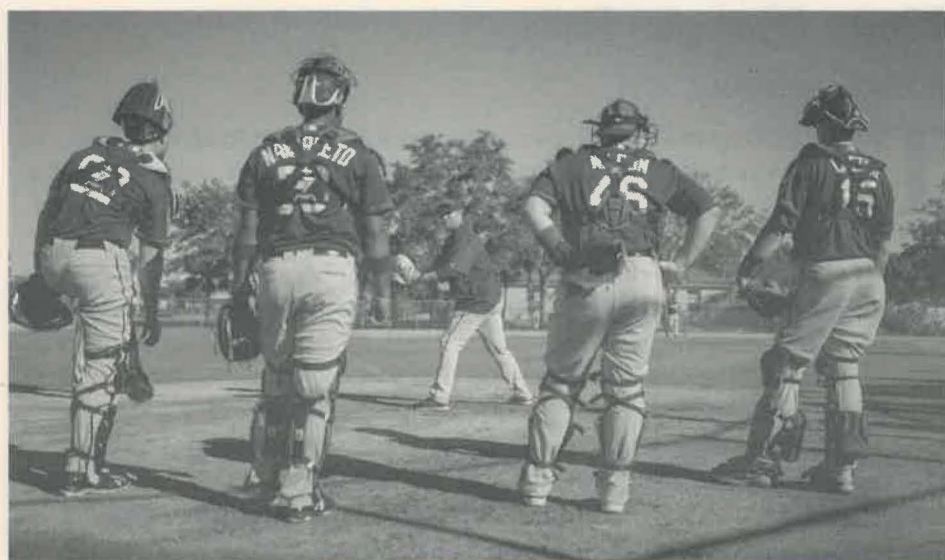


Photo provided by Brace Hemmelgarn

## Minnesota Twins Season Preview: Can They Recapture the Magic?

BY BEN DIERS

With the MLB spring training games underway, the anticipation is building towards a new season of Major League Baseball. Here in Minnesota, fans are eager to see how the Twins perform coming off a surprising 2017 season in which they made the playoffs. Though expectations weren't particularly high for the Twins last year, as they were coming off a disappointing 2016 season in which they lost 103 games, the team is expected to return to form and continue to have success in 2018.

Though they enjoyed unexpected levels of success during the 2017 campaign, the team was clearly not satisfied with just making the playoffs. This offseason has been an eventful one for the Twins, who signed many new players to contracts and made one significant trade. Minnesota appeared to be willing to spend large amounts of money on star players this offseason. As they pursued All-Star pitcher Yu Darvish, though they ultimately fell short in their efforts, and Darvish signed with the Cubs. Still, the Twins made aggressive moves this offseason, bringing in notable players like pitchers Jake Odorizzi, Addison Reed, and Zach Duke as well as first baseman and power hitter Logan Morrison.

Despite these offseason acquisitions, the core of the Twins lineup will likely remain similar to last season. Morrison could be slotted in as a designated hitter on opening day – though that duty could also fall to Kennys Vargas or Robbie Grossman – but the rest of the lineup from last season will most likely remain intact. One question that will need to be addressed is the investigation and possible suspension of third baseman Miguel Sano. Sano, who finished last season with 28 home runs and even earned an appearance in the All-Star game, is currently under MLB investigation for allegations of sexual assault. If Sano were to be suspended, it would likely significantly impact the Twins lineup.

Another question mark for the Twins this season is how the pitching rotation will fare without starting pitcher Ervin Santana. Santana had finger surgery this offseason and will likely miss the first month of the season. Despite the success the Twins enjoyed in 2017, one area that was particularly unpredictable was their pitching. Santana was given an All-Star game nod, and José Berríos had a breakout season, but the rest of the rotation never really found its footing. The Twins inconsistent bullpen was also a blemish in an otherwise successful season, often struggling to put away games late for the Twins last season.

Whether or not the Twins activity in the offseason will pay off is unknown, but the team should have no real reason for a decline in production this season. The lineup remains largely intact and young players like Byron Buxton and Jorge Polanco are only expected to improve. All will be revealed when the Twins open up the regular season on the road against the Baltimore Orioles on March 29<sup>th</sup>. †

## Wild Look to Finish Season Strong

BY BEN DIERS

As the NHL season begins to draw to a close, the Minnesota Wild are looking to end the season with a strong push towards the Stanley Cup Playoffs. In what has



Photo provided by Getty Images

been an up and down season for the Wild, they have found themselves in the middle of the central division standings for most of the year. Despite some rough stretches throughout the season thus far, the Wild are currently in a decent position to secure a playoff spot.

One of the biggest issues facing the Wild this season has been consistency, mainly due to injury. High profile players like Zach Parise, Charlie Coyle, and Nino Niederreiter all missed significant time due to injuries, and it showed. Early in the season, the Wild struggled to put strings of good games together, with one of the biggest problems appearing to be team chemistry. Too many times, it appeared the team wasn't coming together very well as head coach Bruce Boudreau constantly juggled lines to make things work. However, the roster has slowly gotten healthier, and the team has become more of a consistent force as the season has progressed.

Though the Wild have had their fair share of struggles this year, a major bright spot has been their excellent record at home. In February, the Wild posted a 5-1-2 record at home, finishing the month with an 8-3 rout of the division rival St. Louis Blues. Even some of the players are acknowledging their great home record this year, with Wild left wing Zach Parise saying, "I don't think it's any secret; we're a good team at home, and I think the crowd has a lot to do with it." Assuming they get to the playoffs, home-ice advantage could prove to be a significant factor in a deep playoff run.

Despite high levels of success in the regular season over the last few years, the Wild have been plagued with early playoff exits. In each of the last five seasons, the Wild have qualified for the playoffs and subsequently been eliminated in either the first or second round. Making matters even worse, each of these eliminations have come at the hands of a division rival. Though coach Bruce Boudreau has an excellent track record in the regular season in his coaching career, his playoff record is questionable at best. Boudreau's record in the playoffs sits at 42-43 all time, going just 1-7 in game sevens. The Wild will no doubt be looking to reverse both of those trends when the Stanley Cup Playoffs begin on April 11<sup>th</sup>. †



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## SPORTS

## Men's Basketball Wraps Up Season and Looks Forward to 2018/19

BY TANNER PETERSON

Although the men's basketball season didn't finish the way that Golden Bears players and fans had hoped, the season did have some highlights. Junior forward Bryndan Matthews finished the season averaging seventeen points per game, which placed him 8<sup>th</sup> in the NSIC. Matthews also finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the NSIC in rebounds per game with seven per game. Matthews was one of four players in the entire NSIC to be in the NSIC's top ten in terms of points per game and rebounds per game. Matthews also averaged nearly three assists per game and just over a steal per game. With the fantastic stats that Matthews put up this season, surprisingly to many, he was left off of any All-NSIC Team.

Along with Matthews, sophomore Avan Ward took a huge step in his development under head coach Joey

James. Ward finished the season averaging just over 15 points per game, which placed him 16<sup>th</sup> in the NSIC. Ward also finished just above Matthews in the assists category by averaging just under three assists per game. Big men Ted Brown and Evan Wesenberg finished the year averaging six and five points per game respectively. The lone senior on the Golden Bears squad, Ahmad Newsome, was the team's leading three-point shooter as he finished the year with an impressive 41 percent from deep. Contending for the top three-point shooter on the team was sophomore Max Keefe and Ward. Ward and sophomore, Sam Siganos, both shot a respectable thirty-eight percent from downtown. With Newsome using his final year of eligibility, expect sophomore guard, Sam Siganos to take a chunk of those minutes left by Newsome. Siganos was a

key part of the 2016/17 campaign as he started nineteen of the team's final twenty games in that season's wrap-up. His season was derailed due to injury. He will be expected to come back next season and provide valued minutes in Newsome's absence. The season was highlighted by a road win over D-I University of Milwaukee. Milwaukee was competitive all year against mid-major basketball programs throughout the entire country. That victory should serve as a motivating factor for the team and coach James that they have the talent to compete with even the toughest opponents on their schedule.

Looking forward to next season, the Golden Bears will bring back ten of the teams eleven players. The lack of winning has served as time for growth and development for the young rosters that past seasons have brought. The growing pains of years past will provide the team with young, talented, and experienced players that head coach Joey James can build a team around for next year and hopefully many years to come. †



Photo provided by Mary-Clare Couillard

## Women's Basketball Ends Their Season on a High Note

BY TANNER PETERSON



Photo provided by Tanner Peterson

Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Golden Bears won their final four games on their regular season schedule by defeating Winona State, Upper Iowa, Sioux Falls, and Southwest Minnesota State. From there, the Golden Bears were slated to play the St. Cloud State Huskies in St. Cloud, Minnesota for the first round of the NSIC Conference Tournament. The Huskies, who were the 3<sup>rd</sup> seed in the North, were overtaken by the Golden Bears as CSP pulled off the upset on the road.

They took their momentum to Sioux Falls, South Dakota where they would face off against Wayne State, the 2<sup>nd</sup> seed of the South. During the regular season, Wayne State had beaten the Golden Bears twice by an average differential of 22 points. With the team full of confidence and riding momentum, the Golden Bears pulled off another upset by taking down the Wayne State Wildcats. Sadly that is where magic stopped as the Golden Bears were defeated by Winona State in the tournament semifinals by a final score of 56-66.

The team that finished its season in the conference semifinals would not have made it that far without the efforts of some great season by key members of the team. Junior Lindsay Dorr seemed to have found her stride as she ended her season with a darn good average of 11 points and nearly 8 rebounds. Over the final seven games of the season, Dorr averaged over 18 points and 8 rebounds. Dorr credited extra reps and her staying confident for her improved performance in the final stretch of the season by saying, "The main changes I tried to make was being more confident with myself and trusting what I was doing. I also got in the gym more and did extra workouts with Coach Behnke."

Junior guard Anna Schmitt was nothing less than phenomenal this year as she was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference. Schmitt finished the year averaging 19.4 points per game, which was second most in the conference only behind the leader by .4 points per game. Schmitt proved her sharpshooting abilities by shooting 86 percent from the free throw line, which put her at 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the conference, and shot an impressive 40 percent from beyond the three-point line.

What helped to make this team go as far into the conference tournament as did was the star power and depth that the program had. Junior Hanna Vidlund was a key member of the team and shot a quality 35 percent from three-point range and started 21 games for the Golden Bears. Like many on the team, Vidlund played some of her best basketball during the end of the year as she nearly put up a triple-double in the team's tournament upset over Wayne State with 14 points, 7 rebounds, and 11 assists. Freshmen Ellie Gess, Ayla Lemke, Sydney Weireke, and Danielle Schaub were key members to come off the bench and produce. Gess and Weierke made an appearance in every game this season and were the two of only three players on the team to do so, the third being Vidlund.

With the season coming to a close, the final games have been played for two of our Golden Bears in seniors Kayla Miller and Hayden Becker. Both Becker and Miller were key parts of a team on and off of the court, as their leadership helped a team that lacked playing experience prior to this season. As we close the chapter on this season, expect to see continued and sustained success from the CSP women's basketball program as head coach Behnke continues to strive for success. †

Although the Golden Bears hadn't played to their potential for the majority of their season, they turned it on at the perfect time and made some noise in the NSIC Conference Tournament, which was held at the



## SPORTS

## Timberwolves Hold Breath as Butler Goes Down and the Playoffs Approach

BY ELHAM MOHAMUD



Photo provided by tony Gutierrez

The second half of the NBA season is upon us, and this is when we get to find out if the Minnesota Timberwolves can put it all together. With a team mixed with veterans and young stars, the team hopes they can make the organizations first playoff appearance in 13 seasons.

As the team entered the All-Star Break, they were sitting near the top half of the NBA standings, and then disaster struck as Jimmy Butler went down with a non-contact knee injury that left the state of Minnesota and the Timberwolves organization holding its breath. The fear was that Butler had suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament or as many know it by as

an ACL. After an MRI and a few checkups, everyone was relieved to find out that Butler's injury was only a meniscus injury and would be back to playing in a few weeks after surgery.

Since Butler's injury, the team has been wavering in-between a number of playoff positions. With the team looking for a boost, the front office and Thibodeau decided to sign an aging, but former All-Star and MVP award winner, Derrick Rose. Rose was a focal point of Thibodeau's success with the Chicago Bulls before suffering a number of injuries that kept him out of playing. Rose last played with the Cleveland Cavaliers before departing due to lack of success playing alongside LeBron James and company. At the very least, Rose will provide a great basketball mind for younger players such as Karl Anthony Towns, Andrew Wiggins, and Tyus Jones to learn from. If Rose can find his stride and play as he did during his not so long-ago MVP caliber seasons, the Western Conference may have just found it's next biggest threat to the Golden State Warriors, Houston Rockets, and reigning NBA champion Cleveland Cavaliers.

With the playoffs starting in just a few weeks, the need to win each game becomes exponentially more important than the last. Will the young core of KAT and Wiggins be able to step up and mend the gap that Butler's injury has left, or will they crumble under the pressure that is the NBA playoffs? Only time will tell. †

## Baseball Update: Transfers Help Baseball Team Get Off to Hot Start

BY COLE SCHUESSLER

Coming into the season, Concordia St. Paul's baseball team was in a position to be a quality team. Returning most of their lineup from the 2017 season as well as their ace, Gus Varland, the Golden Bears were picked to finish fifth in the NSIC. However, the start of the season has shown that the Golden Bears may have potential

to be much better. While the returners for CSP have shown that they are ready to roll, a significant amount of newcomers have also led the Golden Bears to a hot start.

Concordia started the season with a double-header on March 5<sup>th</sup> at U.S. Bank Stadium with both games coming against the Minot State. The star

of the first contest was Varland as the junior pitched a complete game. Varland gave up only one run while recording nine strikeouts as Major League Baseball scouts watched on. The Golden Bears dropped the second game 3-2 with a home run from designated hitter, Connor Trygstad, serving as a silver lining. Concordia then traveled

## The Minnesota United Look to Bounce Back After Dismal Inaugural Season

BY TANNER PETERSON

We have all heard the famous saying that "Rome wasn't built in one day." The Minnesota United are hoping that phrase holds true. The Minnesota United are looking to forget last year's inaugural season in the Major League Soccer League (MLS) and look to continue to build a soccer club this state will be proud of.

The team finished last year with a mediocre record of ten wins, six draws, and nineteen losses. Last year, the team allowed the most goals by allowing seventy balls in the back of the net. The team also had a less than exciting goal differential of -23. Although the team was less than average, the excitement around the team has been a significant draw for fans. The games are currently played at TCF Bank Stadium on the campus of the University of Minnesota, but the Loons, as they are sometimes called, will soon be playing their matches just a few blocks west of Concordia's campus in the Midway development.

Their new stadium, Allianz Field, is currently in the works of providing soccer fans throughout all of Minnesota a place to cheer on their hometown team. While at TCF Bank Stadium last season, the lack of wins didn't keep the United fans away from rooting on their team. The team had an average attendance of over 20,000 fans per game, which puts them in the middle of the pack of average MLS attendance.

The team is composed of players from all over the world who are here to represent our state. Christian Ramirez led the team in goals last season as he punched fourteen shots into the back of the net. Ramirez started twenty-seven games for the United last year and appeared in thirty of the team's contests. Another key member of the United squad is forward, Abu Danladi. The 22-year-old and native of Ghana was made the 1st overall pick by the Minnesota United in the 2017 MLS SuperDraft after a decorated career at UCLA. By the end of last year, Danladi had slotted in eight goals, four of those goals going for match winners. His great season helped him finish second in the MLS Rookie of the Year voting. Making all of the saves for the United this season is the goalkeeper, Matthew Lampson. Lampson was acquired by the United in a trade with the Chicago Fire in January. Lampson has played soccer professionally for six years and should be a strong option for Loon's head coach Adrian Heath.

As the Loons begin the 2018 campaign, pay attention to the continued growth of the young core that this organization will rely on for many years to come. †



Photo provided by Google

to Arizona for their next eight games.

The Golden Bears next foes were a couple of familiar opponents, as they faced NSIC members Southwest Minnesota State and St. Cloud State on March 7<sup>th</sup>. In the first game, Louie Varland pitched five shutout innings and was backed up by two hits from Trygstad, shortstop,

Patrick Bordewick, and outfielder, Carter Schmidt to top SMSU 7-2. In the latter game, junior transfer, Josh Gaworski, pitched five innings of one-run ball, and fellow junior transfer third baseman, Drew Sannes, collected three hits to help lead the Bears to 6-5 win. Concordia continued their winning ways, picking up a 9-8 victory

over Dakota Wesleyan and an 8-6 victory over Valley City State. Both involved late-game comebacks for the Golden Bears, with pinch-hit home run by Zach Elder making the difference in the first contest and a string of hits in the sixth inning leading to the win in the second game.

A March 9<sup>th</sup> game against Mount Marty



## SPORTS

## Female Athlete of the Month: Lindsay Dorr

BY TANNER PETERSON



Photo provided by Mary-Clare Couillard

The Golden Bears women's basketball team ended their season playing their best basketball and that success was partly due to junior center, Lindsay Dorr.

The 6'2"

center is from Otsego, Minnesota and Rogers High School, after which she began her college basketball career at the D-I level playing at the University of Toledo. After a season at Toledo, Dorr decided to transfer closer to her home in Minnesota. "I choose to transfer to Concordia was because it's pretty close to where I'm from, compared to Toledo which was 13 hours from home. I had options to go to other schools while transferring, but ultimately just wanted to be closer to home. I also choose Concordia because they have had success with their women's basketball program and also with their education programs," said Dorr.

Dorr became a part of the women's basketball team last season, but took on a major role this year. As the season came down to its final stretch, she began playing her best basketball yet. She recorded double-digit scoring in 12 of her final 14 games, as well as averaging 9 rebounds per game in that same stretch to close the season. Her work on the court earned her NSIC South Division Player of the Week for the week of February 20<sup>th</sup>. Dorr said that the main change she made is to elevate her game was becoming more confident in herself and trusting her abilities, along with working with Coach Behnke to prepare for games.

Dorr is majoring in Health Care Administration with a minor in Finance. Her parents serve as her biggest role models; "They are the ones that have always been there for me and have taught me to always work hard. I can always count on them to make me a better person." When the junior isn't on the court, you can find her staying active outside, as well as traveling up north and being with family and friends.

Dorr will play a major role next season as she looks to carry over her stellar play from this season into next year.

## Male Athlete of the Month: Isaac Hormann

BY COLE SCHUESSLER

CSP Male Athlete of the Year, NCBWA and D2CCA All-Region Second Team Utility, All-NSIC First Team, NSIC Gold Glove Second Baseman... After an outstanding sophomore season for Isaac Hormann, the awards piled up. But as the 2017 season begins, Hormann isn't worried about individual accolades; he's focusing on what he can do to make sure that the Golden Bears baseball team picks up as many victories as they can. "I would say my goals would be to do whatever I can do to help the team win, whether that be to make a play in the

field, lay down a sacrifice bunt, or drive in a run," the junior stated, "I just try to [make] the right play in the situation that is presented."

In 2017, Hormann did just that and was exceptionally dynamic for the Golden Bears at the plate. The sophomore led the team in a variety of hitting categories including batting average (.364), on-base percentage (.439), and slugging percentage (.439). He also collected the most hits (60), doubles (11), and total bases (77) on the team while occupying the second spot in the Golden Bears lineup for most of the season.

Hormann also posted an astounding .489 average against left-handed pitching, a .444 average hitting with two outs, and a .420 average with runners on base. This led the Central High School grad (located in Norwood Young America, MN) to rack up 33 runs score and 25 RBI. Hormann was also solid in the field, committing only one error while starting 36 games at second base, six in center field, and two in left field.

Reflecting on his 2017 season, Hormann said his increased maturity was one of the biggest factors to success. "I was able to stay mentally tougher as

a baseball player, and that helped overall in the field and in the box," the versatile junior stated, "I could try to forget about bad things that happened, move on,



Photo provided by Jordan Vredveld

continue on page 20...

(S.D.) resulted in the second loss of the season for the Golden Bears, leaving 16 runners on base in a 9-5 loss. Concordia then faced off against Northern State on March 10th, splitting the two games. The first game resulted in a 5-2 loss, despite a career-high nine strikeouts for starting pitcher and sophomore, Connor Hurley. The

second game was started by junior, Keanu Mendez, who worked five innings and only gave up one hit. Senior, Riley Sweeney, came on to finish the shutout for the Golden Bears, resulting in 2-0 victory over the Wolves. The final game of the road trip on March 11<sup>th</sup> was positive on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball, as

pitcher Gus Varland struckout nine in five shutout innings, and six Golden Bears collected multiple hits in a 10-0 drubbing of Dickinson State (N.D.).

The first ten games of the season have shown the Golden Bears offensive potential as six of the CSP's regular starters recorded averages over .300 through the road trip.

Tops among the group were Sannes (.500) and Trygstad (.432), who transferred into the program last season. On the mound, Gus Varland only gave up one run in 12 innings of work, also recording 18 strikeouts during the trip south.

The Golden Bears used a balanced pitching approach, having 15 pitchers throw in the first ten games. The

transfers and freshman were especially evident on the mound, as nine pitchers helped lead the Golden Bears to a 3.38 ERA in the ten game span. With some key returnees and new talent on the team, the Golden Bears have potential to put up one of their best seasons in recent memory.



## SPORTS

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and get ready for the next pitch." Hormann hopes to use his experience to benefit the team, which he says is tight-knit and excited to see what they can do this season. "Being a junior now, I hope that I can bring some leadership to the team," Hormann stated, "We have a big class of juniors, and I think that the younger guys can learn a lot of good things from not only me, but the entire class." In the offseason, Hormann said he dedicated a lot of his time to playing baseball and improving his game, as well as frequently visiting the weight room. The hard work paid off to start the season, as Hormann

collected hits in eight of the first ten games and sported a .351 average.

As well as watching baseball (his favorite team is the Twins), Hormann also enjoys playing basketball, football, golf, and is an avid outdoorsman who likes hunting and fishing. Hormann hopes to continue in athletics after his baseball career at Concordia is complete, with aspirations in the field of coaching.

Through his individual offseason training and work to improve his game, Hormann hopes to help lead the Golden Bears in a NCAA Regional Tournament bid, a place that the CSP hasn't reached since the 2008

season. To achieve that goal though, the Golden Bears will have to make the right play each game and situation; an ideal Hormann has taken to heart. "That starts with the first pitch of the first game," Hormann stated. "We can't look into the future; we have to take this game one pitch at a time."

## New NBA All-Star Game Format Electrifies Fans and Players

BY RILEY EDLING

The 67<sup>th</sup> edition of the NBA All-Star exhibition game took place on February 18<sup>th</sup> and was an electrifying game, to say the least. As two star-studded teams comprised of the NBA's best athletes from the East and West conferences clashed against each other to produce an astoundingly high scoring game.

This year's competition came with a twist as the NBA committee selected to change the original format of the game from Eastern Conference vs. Western Conference, to a draft style format. The team captains were determined by who received the most votes in their conference during the All-Star voting period. The pool consisted of the eight other selected starters, with no regard to conference designation, and fourteen reserves chosen by NBA coaches. Another quirk to this year's All-Star Game was that each member of the winning team would receive a whopping \$100,000 while each member of the losing team would receive \$25,000.

Lebron James and Stephen Curry had received the most votes regarding their conference, making them the team captains and in charge of drafting their team. The 2018 All-Star rosters were nothing short of incredible, very much showing a battle between freak athletes and competitors. The starting five for Team Lebron consisted of Anthony Davis, Kyrie Irving, Russel Westbrook, Kevin Durant, as well as Lebron James. The power lineup was drafted via Lebron from both conferences, making it all the more unique. For Team Stephen, his lineup was equally competitive. The starting five being Joel Embiid, Giannis Antetokounmpo, DeMar DeRozan, James Harden, and himself, Steph Curry.

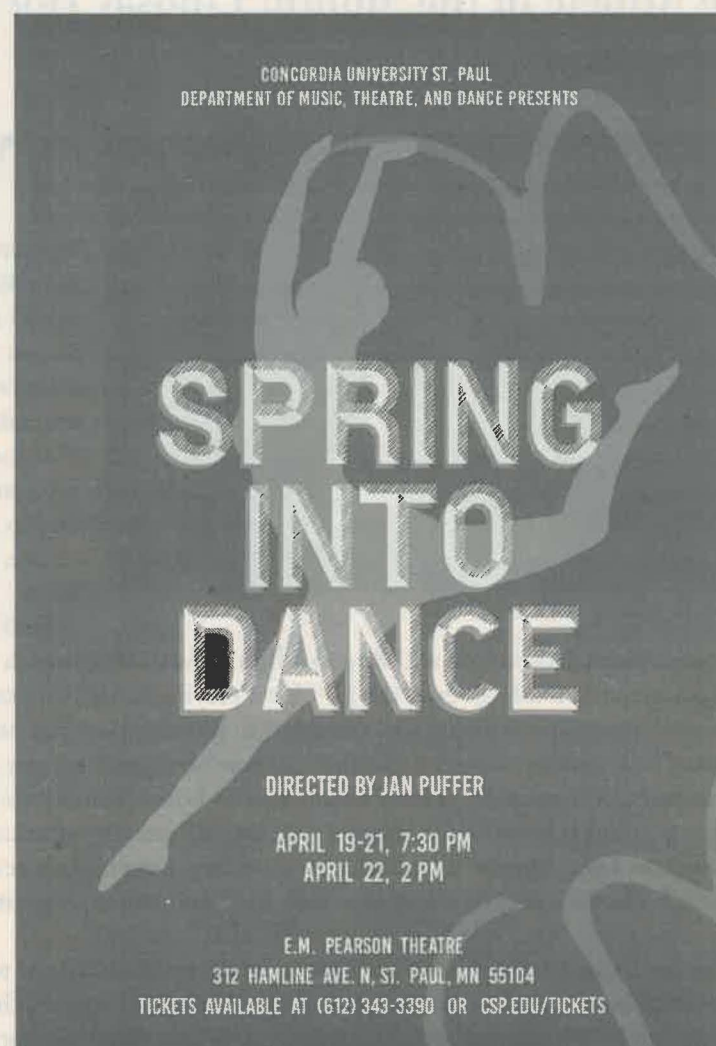
Team Stephen started the game out strong by finishing the first quarter with an eleven point lead of 42-31. With teams consisting of amazing scorers, it is expected to have such a high scoring first quarter. The show immediately shot off with trick passes, incredible dunks, ankle-breaking moves, and even

surprisingly enough, defense! Although off to a hot start, it was Team Lebron that rallied back in the second to close the gap to just 2 points before the half.

The passion and motivation to win was very clear in both teams as neither one was going to let the score run for their opponent. The third quarter was an electrifying fight, almost evening the score as Team Stephen led by three points. The exciting fourth quarter was a battle for both sides as Curry's team pulled away by 13 with just six minutes left in the game, but by no means was Lebron going to let it slip away. Offensively and defensively, Team Lebron began making their mark again, cutting the lead closer and closer.

Close passes and an excellent drive to the rim by Lebron put his team in the lead, eventually leading by 3 with 10 seconds to go in the game. The inbound pass to Curry was the decided move as he is known for his deadly three's and game-winners. Kevin Durant and Lebron James forced Curry into the corner with a double, almost triple team where he was forced to pass which then resulted in time running out. Team Lebron came away with the win 148 to 145.

The NBA All-star game has never truly been about the final score but has rather been defined by the moments that stand out, for better or worse. This year's game, however, was a different atmosphere, a more competitive and intense game on both sides of the ball. After the game, Kevin Durant said, "Since I've been playing All-Star games, this is the best one. All the guys came out and played hard". Coming from a nine-time All-Star, that means something. Lebron James walked away with the MVP trophy as his standout performance deserves it, ending the game with 29 points, 10 rebounds, and 8 assists. This was his third All-Star Game MVP award with a strong possibility of many more to come.





## ARTS &amp; VARIETY

## Writing Spotlight: Tim Peterson

BY COLE SCHUESSLER

**C**reative. Non-fiction. Journalistic. Biographical. The types of writing that exist today are endless. While each is different, could there still be a common thread going through the long list that leads to exceptional writing? While cases could be made for good grammar, varying vocabulary or previous experience, Tim Peterson's work makes a case for another element: passion or interest in the topic at hand. Peterson, a freshman at Concordia St. Paul, won both the Kaden Award for the best short story and the Lange Award for the best research paper in this year's writing contest held by CSP's English Department.



Photo provided by Tim Peterson

Submissions for the contest were submitted early February and judged anonymously, as Peterson's research essay *Off on the Wrong Foot* and short story *Lightbringer* were both declared winners in the annual competition. *Off on the Wrong Foot* focused on the benefits of minimalist or barefoot running, an idea Peterson is very familiar with. "It's something I decided to write about because it is something that I [personally] know about," Peterson stated, "I had to make the switch because I kept getting stress fractures in track and cross country [in high school]." The essay points out the ancient roots of long-distance barefoot running as well as the practical advantages that have been discovered today.

Peterson's short story titled *Lightbringer* was an action-based fiction piece, featuring a main character named Lucifer the Second (the devil's good son) trying to rescue his daughter. Peterson put a lot of thought into the story, something that he picked up partially from a high school short story unit in his theology class. "It was about what makes a good story, not a happy story, but a good story," Peterson stated, "Going on from that, [we focused on] what it means to live a good story."

A graduate of Concordia Academy in Roseville, Peterson stated that his favorite genre to write is short fiction stories. "I do really like the short story genre, it's such an interesting format," the freshman stated, "It's not like a full-length novel, but there is still so much you can pack in there." Speaking of his short stories, Peterson says he is inspired by what movie scenes impact him the most. When writing, he likes to plan an opening scene and let his creativity work the rest of the story out. Peterson believes his writing in college has improved as he has matured, making his characters and their interactions more believable.

A graphic design major and music composition minor, Peterson does not limit his creativity to writing. Though a full class load including four studio art classes keeps Peterson busy, he still finds time to play percussion in CSP's concert band and work on some of his projects. Peterson makes his own music and recently did some graphic design work on fellow musician Noah Klemp's new album.



Photo provided by Tim Peterson

Peterson also aspires to one day turn his short story *Lightbringer* into a graphic novel. As for career aspirations, Peterson is dreaming big with realistic expectations. "I've always wanted to work at Pixar; that had been a dream of mine for a really long time," Peterson stated, "I'm realizing that may not happen specifically, but something like that would be really cool." Whatever he ends up doing in the future, Peterson wants to continue to put his passion into telling stories, whether they be visual, musical, or through literature. †

## Spring into the Dance VI Preview

BY MARA GRAU



Photo provided by Jan Puffer.

**T**his April Concordia will be putting on its sixth annual dance concert: *Spring into Dance VI*. For the past few months, the choreographers and dancers have been busy rehearsing and preparing for the upcoming show. Just like each of the previous concerts, it is going to be a can't miss show, so it's time to mark your calendars.

Since she created *Spring into Dance VI* in 2013, director Jan Puffer has been very proud of the show. Concordia only offers a dance minor, and only a few of the people involved with the show are dance minors. *Spring into Dance VI* is open to all Concordia students no matter their area of study or amount of dance training. Despite busy schedules and different backgrounds, the dancers and choreographers join together to create a truly great dance concert.

This year's concert features sixteen dance numbers choreographed by members of the CSP community. Four CSP alumni have come back to choreograph pieces for this show: Libby Ulm, Kate Sandvik, Bethany Meyer, and Jordyn Joens. Four other pieces came to life during the choreography class offered in the fall. The other pieces were choreographed by current students and director, Jan Puffer. There is a total of thirty-one dancers participating in this year's show.

*Spring into Dance VI* features dances in the styles of modern, jazz, swing, tap, contemporary Hmong, ballet, hip-hop, and musical theater. Puffer's annual musical theater piece features songs from six Broadway musicals: *Carnival*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Anything Goes*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Hamilton*, and *Footloose*. Like last year, each dance will be preceded by a video introduction from the choreographer.



Photo provided by Jan Puffer.

There is a preview for the show on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. that is free to CSP students. Additional showings that are open to that public are Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 p.m. Ticket information can be found at [csp.edu/tickets](http://csp.edu/tickets). †



Photo provided by Jan Puffer.



# ARTS & VARIETY

## Art in the Cities: The Birth Project - Born Again

BY MATTHEW IUNG

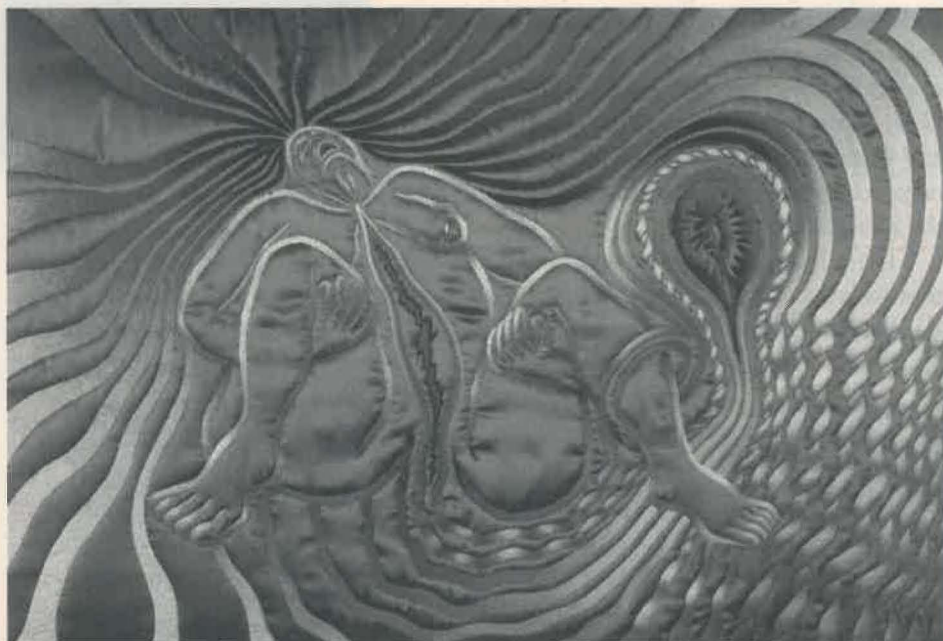
"If men had babies, there would be thousands of images of the crowning"  
- Judy Chicago, 1982

The quote above is how I was introduced to Judy Chicago's work, from here it only gets cooler. Judy Chicago is a feminist artist who has done a lot of work surrounding brother and the role of not only the female in this process but as a life-giver and nurturer. This Exhibition is up at St. Catherine University, and it recollects several of Chicago's pieces from the Birth Project.

Through her work, she explores the pains and pleasures that giving birth has to offer. Below is the *Birth Tear E2*, a needlework piece done by Gaddie Thompson. Its well-achieved goal is to illustrate the violence that often goes hand and hand with birth. This is a striking image that induces a sort of ache in the viewer like the expression on the face of the woman. She is crying out in pain, and the color emanating from every inch of her in waves of red agony is scary. However, this is realism in a sense because there is no life without pain, and there certainly is no creation without there being a struggle.

One of her larger pieces was on display, and it very quickly became of my favorites. This is *Creation of The World*. It's a creation story with embedded text throughout taking the viewer on a journey that is both poetic and painful. One of the things that I really love is the color palette. The transition from this dark flesh tone purple into a stained golden light is just beautiful. There is a cry of agony with this gorgeous visual that reminds the viewer that this process is not one being performed by a machine.

Having the opportunity to see Chicago's work is one that I will value for a long time to come. There is no comparison to anything else that I have seen. Her work is honest, beautiful and reminds the viewer of the humanity behind the giving of life. After seeing all of these beautiful representations and renderings of birth, it makes me realize just how under-appreciated and underrepresented the proses truly is. †



Birth Tear E2 by Judy Chicago

## Ash Martini: Actor, Director & Playwright

BY MATTHEW IUNG

Ash Martini is a senior graduating at the end of this semester, she is a Theatre Major, an actor, director, and playwright. Our story starts in Pine City with Disney's *Annie* and a very energetic young girl who loved to sing, perform and embarrass her family now and then. Ash tells me, "Embarrassingly, I admit, as a child, I sang pretty much everywhere I went whether that be in my own home, in the barn, or in awkward public places." Given a chance to perform, she took every opportunity she could as a young girl. Like so many, she became addicted, and you can see all of the passion that comes with that now. It's very easy to see that there is not only more than a hobby or it's truly intertwined with Ash's life-giving power and meaning to all of what she has done so far.

Ash's first show was *Twinderella*; she played the role of Old Matilda in the sixth grade. The way Ash tells it this character was "an old lady with a secret to share and no one to listen, but she's brave and determined enough to make sure someone will hear her." From this role, Ash discerned that she was the loudest, bravest and more than likely most colorful sixth grader they had. Even though she wanted to be Cinderella, Ash told me that someone knew that she was meant to make people laugh and smile. Whoever that was, they were right because she is still bringing smiles to faces every day.

As with so many aspects of her life and career up to this point, it's not in Ash's nature to settle or to just do the minimum, so when I asked her if she had a favorite role from her time acting, I received her top four, "I loved being Dr. Livingstone in *Agnes of God*, Irene Roth in *Crazy for You*, and I also really liked being Georgeanne in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. I would say playing the role of Colleen in *Kingdom Come* was my favorite. Channeling her and my other characters meant so much to me." Having seen Ash act, I can say that no matter what the role was, she has always tried not only to bring characters alive but bring the audience into them.

Right now Ash is making the rounds of the Twin Cities looking for potential acting work while at the same time pursuing writing. She tells me, "Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night with a new idea, and I have to write it down just so I can go back to sleep." She has accumulated an entire list of script ideas, and she wants to learn more about being a playwright and what goes into educating others. She finishes by telling me, "As a woman actor/director/educator/playwright, I think there is an adventure and journey to be had, and I'm thrilled to see where all of it brings me."

I have had the pleasure of not only getting to know Ash but see her act and direct as well. I am happy to say that I have no doubt that Ash will find success in the world. As disappointed as I am to see her go, I am happy to see and feel that she is not only taking but leaving behind so much love for the theater. However, before she exits the stage here at Concordia, she has one more story to tell, and there is no one better to tell it than Ash herself:

"*Brake for Me* is the first play I've ever written. We had a playwriting exercise in Script Analysis a year and a half ago. One week, Mark decided to focus on how plays begin. It was supposed to be this fun and educational activity to teach how playwrights begin writing. Mark asked us to write ten lines between two characters. But there was a problem; I couldn't stop writing. We would all come back to class, each time with more lines and pages. He asked us to write two pages, but I wrote seven. Then he asked us to write five pages; I wrote fourteen. Mark came up to me after class and told me that my writing was pretty good and that I should continue. He then challenged me to finish this play. I thought 'challenge accepted.' I soon found out that writing this script was infectious to me. There were a couple of nights where I would start writing at nine or ten o'clock at night, but then, I would realize that all of a sudden it was four am. I began meeting with Mark once a week to discuss my work. As my mentor, he really helped me and encouraged me to continue, to make changes, and yes, rewrite. After lots of development,



## ARTS &amp; VARIETY

I started holding workshops for *Brake for Me*. Since the beginning, I have had three workshops, one private and two public. It's all lead up to now where I am finally getting the opportunity and dream of being able to put it on as a workshopped show."

*Brake for Me* is a five-character show with a run time of about an hour and thirty minutes. The show goes up on April 26<sup>th</sup>, and I am encouraging everyone to go and see it. Ash was kind enough to write a short synopsis of the show:

Sam Matthisen, the teacher running away from his past and what it's cost him. Will, a comical spirit of a student. Will be in the role of Anna, a young teenager who struggles with her relationship with her father. Anna's mother, Mom, seeks to fix Anna's broken relationship with her father before it's too late. And lastly, Dave, a common bus driver that drives a bus trip that may be more than what he signed up for. †

## Music Spotlight: Scott Kleppe

BY ELIZABETH REYNOLDS



Photo provided by Scott Kleppe.

As the end of the semester is in sight, most students stress about finals and last minute assignments; even more daunting is the destination of graduation. Senior, Scott Kleppe, is quickly approaching this goal as a K-12 vocal music education major.

From a young age, music has played a huge role in Kleppe's life, and his decision to be a vocal music education major is the proof of that devotion. As a dedicated musician, Kleppe states, "Music goes beyond language. It is an incredible tool for communication and expression. Music often says what we cannot say with words alone."

Throughout his time at Concordia, Kleppe has been deeply involved with the music department and other musical roles on campus and credits much of his musical growth to the program here at CSP. Participating in the Christus chorus, Vox 9, handbells, concert band, 908, and taking part in private voice and piano lessons, Kleppe has proven to be a dedicated music education student. Impressively, Kleppe has also been awarded the 2018 Pro Artibus Award in Music and the Outstanding Teacher Education Student award.

Reflecting on his time spent with faculty, Kleppe has been especially inspired by Dr.'s Mennicke and Kennedy. According to Kleppe, "Dr. Kennedy is a wonderful teacher as well as an extremely caring person that truly cares for each of his students, and Dr. Mennicke is an incredible musician and human being. I have spent four years soaking up as much knowledge as I possibly can from him."

This extensive involvement has proven to be a significant part of Kleppe's time at CSP, and he is excited to continue his musical journey outside of Concordia. Kleppe plans to sing in ensembles outside of his future musical teaching career, and the gravity of those potential ensembles is based on his future location after college.

Looking to the future, Kleppe has plans to graduate and find work as a choir director in a school, as well as get married this coming summer: "It has been great to be at CSP and learn from many wonderful teachers, but I am ready to spread my wings and work in my own classroom." †

## Music Review: Ladies and Tigers - A Cinematic Alt-Rock Experience

BY KELLY PIERCE

Local emerging artist Noah Klemp recently dropped his picturesque debut EP, *Ladies and Tigers*, on Apple Music and Spotify. The four-track project explores the thought-provoking paradox of a man stuck choosing between the love of his life or his career.



Photo provided by Noah Klemp.

In "I Need You To," the indecisive chorus, "I need you to go / I need you to stay," echoes the merit of the EP. Slow, drawn-out guitar chords and distorted vocals over a wavering backdrop create an ethereal atmosphere for the distressed protagonist. In a room flooded with blue light, a somber man is torn in half: "The cold blue air you breathe will pull me back in / your black ripped jeans are telling me to live."

The remainder of the EP follows the same train of thought. The optimistic tune, "Leave," explores the career option over lighthearted acoustic chords and a peppy percussion line. Intermittent electric guitar riffs give life to the song, transforming it from a soft ballad into a borderline headbanging house anthem.

"Stay" is an angsty, dour, yet hopeful future where the protagonist chose love over his career. The muted chords and finger-plucked melody create a melancholic atmosphere that perfectly matches the bullish dysphoria of never quite attaining the American Dream: "expensive dreams / existing only when we slept."

Klemp's nihilistic take on the American Dream in *Ladies and Tigers* was born from his own existential crises. "When I was 15, I saw this thing that said the American empire has been around 1/10 the time of the Egyptian empire," says Klemp, "And the only two people anyone really remembers from that time are Tut and Cleopatra. Billions of people and we only remember two of them. So does anything we do really matter?"

Though the idea that nothing really matters seems troubling, Klemp views things differently. "A lot of people get depressed or anxious when they think about needing to do something to be remembered..." The notion that we must leave our mark on humankind can be crippling, bringing unnecessary pressure to our existence. But if you let go of that notion, you're able to live on your own terms.

Noah already has over 9,000 plays on Spotify just after releasing his first project. Right now, he's focused on dropping his first full-length album by the end of the year. *Ladies and Tigers* symbolically represents Klemp taking his first step into the void to follow his passion unashamedly. *Ladies and Tigers* is an ambitious first project that effectively communicates specific aspects of human emotion that are difficult to articulate.

What makes this project special to me is that it's not trying to be anything. It's not trying to be a radio-play pop record, and it's not trying to fit into a niche indie category. The project is effective because it's ambitious, but also humble. In the artist's words, "It's freeing to realize you're not as important as you might originally think." †



# ARTS & VARIETY

## Book Review: Annihilation

BY MATTHEW IUNG

**A**nnihilation by Jeff VanderMeer came out in 2014 and was the first of the Southern Reach Trilogy. VanderMeer is a big proponent of the New Weird Literary movement, and that can be seen throughout *Annihilation*. Weird Fiction originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the many sub-genres that fall under the umbrella of speculative fiction. There are many different kinds of stories that can be told through weird fiction. The genre was defined by writers such as H.P. Lovecraft, August Derleth, R.W. Chambers, and Clark Ashton Smith.

*Annihilation* tells the story of the 12<sup>th</sup> excursion into an area known as Area-X. The four women that enter Area-X are known by their fields of expertise: the anthropologist, surveyor, biologist, and psychologist. These four experience things that are beyond their understanding and far beyond anything that is easily explainable.

The narrative is from the biologist's point of view who the reader learns more about as the book goes on. VanderMeer writes the book as one long journal entry, and this adds to the unsettling nature of everything on the page. VanderMeer also reveals a lot about what's going to happen, making it seem like this really was something that a person wrote. Someone journaling is not going to have a sense of narrative tension. Instead of removing the tension as if someone was telling you the end of a film, the effect is one of waiting for the bomb to go off.

This book definitely won't be for everyone; it's weird and very true to its genre in that way. Not all of the questions get answers in the first book. However, VanderMeer uses the lack of knowledge and lack of explanation at times to build excellent tension between the characters and their environment.

The environment is an extremely important part of *Annihilation*; the entire reason for sending teams into Area-X is because it's undergoing this extraordinary environmental change. The plant life, animals, and even the people who enter undergo changes that range from beautiful to terrifying. The book is atmospheric and uses nature to create this horror of being alone and out of an environment that you recognize.

The world Vandemere builds for his readers is a vibrant one, lush with foreign flora and fauna, and rife with danger from external forces and those within. The book is very well written and takes time to expand its characters and places that are explored. It also looks more in-depth at larger ideas such as self-destruction and the lengths to which people will go when motivated. There is an existential horror surrounding what's happened to the place known as the "forgotten coast." VanderMeer takes readers down a worst possible type of future and really emphasizes the inevitability of nature taking hold and eventually encompassing what we once knew. †

## Movie Review: Annihilation

BY MATTHEW IUNG

**A**nnihilation starring Natalie Portman and directed by Alex Garland is based on the novel of the same name by Jeff VanderMeer. The Film follows Lena into Area-X and the "shimmer." Her motivation for going is to discover more about where her now sick husband disappeared to for a year. On the other side, she discovers unnatural and terrifying things.

Before I begin splitting hairs about adaptations and genre, it's important to point out the beautiful cinematography and effects alike. *Annihilation* has a lot going for it visually, and the camera work in places is absolutely stunning. Towards the beginning of the film, there is a sequence where the refraction from a glass of water is used to create tension and emphasizes the unnatural nature of a character. The visual effects both practical and CGI are brilliant and otherworldly.

The movie, while it has its tense moments, does fall into traditional horror tropes relying more on jump scares and gore than the eerie and atmospheric elements. *Annihilation* is definitely not its source material. This is not a good or a bad thing depending on any given viewer's relationship with adaptations. Like many who read books and then go to see their films, I have a complicated relationship with adaptations. When it comes to page-to-screen adaptations, there are a few ways to go about it. The most popular form is the kind that *Harry Potter* and the *Hunger Games* take. These adaptations often resemble their source material more closely than not when it comes to characters, events, and settings.

Then there is an adaptation in the sense of updating, adjusting, or expanding on the source material. Some notable examples of this are *Heart of Darkness* becoming *Apocalypse Now*, and *Blade Runner* being loosely based on Philip K. Dicks' *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*. These are adaptations in the sense that there are recognizable aspects and elements from the source material.

I'm not quite sure what *Annihilation* is trying to do. There are recognizable elements and aspects of the source material, and it does not seem to be updating or changing its lenses in an obvious way; however, it does depart from the source material. This departure is not so much in its message but its execution. The changes made seem to be cosmetic in nature until the very end.

The end moves *Annihilation* from a weird-science fiction into a more on-the-nose explanation of the origins of the central conflicts. The film leaves a lot of loose ends and questions that are less thought-provoking and more head scratching. Overall I think what I want more than anything is to have a conversation about this movie and see what others have taken away from it. †

## Food Review: Cafe Astoria

BY H.D. DOWNS

**L**attes with rainbow milk, 24 karat gold flakes pressed against the rim of a boujee latte, and a fresh fire roasted jumbo marshmallow sitting on top of a chocolatey mocha are just three of the simply photo-worthy coffee drinks that can be found on Grand Avenue in St. Paul inside a little coffee shop called Cafe Astoria. Not only does the cafe boast arguably the city's most Instagrammable coffee drinks, but they also have sweet and savory crepes, smoothie bowls, and pastries. Approaching just two years since opening, Cafe Astoria has certainly made its mark in local's hearts and became a must-see destination for any coffee lover in the Midwest.

After seeing these magical drinks and perfectly built smoothie bowls all over social media, I knew I had to find out what the hype was all about. On a sweet and bright Friday morning with classes canceled, I made my trip. When first arriving, I quickly realized that this is the kind of place where you put down your jacket and purse at a table before ordering at the counter. Even at 11 am, there were only two empty tables. While reasonably small, the restaurant had a sleek and clean feeling to it. I ordered a mango smoothie bowl and a white chocolate mocha (boring to some, but I'm a fan of consistency).

With some Instagrammable restaurants, the food and drinks don't end up tasting as good as they look. However, I'm happy to report that this was not the case at Cafe Astoria. The white mocha was delivered with a heart in the foam on top, and the first sip greeted me with perfectly steamed soy milk, a hint of sweetness from the white chocolate, and the warm reassurance of espresso at the end. The smoothie bowl looked so perfect that I almost didn't even want to mix it together. The bowl came topped with granola, chia and pumpkin seeds, slices of mango, banana, kiwi, and goji berries. Hidden in the center of the bowl underneath all of the toppings was a scoop of greek yogurt. One word: heavenly. The fruit was clearly fresh, the granola added a nice crunch, and the greek yogurt helped reduce the sweetness of the smoothie.

Friday morning was a great time to come, as less than an hour later, the place was completely packed. As a tip, this cafe can only seat roughly 30 people and is not the place for your weekend brunch. The cafe has even recently decided to close on Mondays as the weekends are so downright insane for the tiny storefront, the baristas need a day to recoup!

Overall, Cafe Astoria is a fun and delicious experience. If you find yourself needing a study or date spot during the weekday, consider giving this small and local business a try. †



## ARTS &amp; VARIETY

## Artist Spotlight: Rachel Allen

### *A Triumphant Flower*

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

Rachel Allen uses art as her vehicle for change. The senior studio major is well aware of the extensive work that it takes to transition into the person one wants to be; her body of artwork is proof of her dedication.

Allen is a multi-faceted artist. She interviewed into Creative Arts Secondary School as a writer, where she (coincidentally) found her love of painting. Since pursuing art, she has found her personal experience as her biggest source of inspiration. Seeing the beauty that the earth has to offer, combined with nature photographs, has stimulated many of her paintings. She also admires artist David Hockney who influences on Allen, as she relates to his bright, flat colors, as well as his self-expressive approach to creating. Allen also admires many CSP students who bravely experiment with materials and push their boundaries.

Her artwork, on display in CSP's H. William's Teaching Gallery until April 4<sup>th</sup>, exhibits her exploration in addition to her paintings. She discovered her love of sculpture and printmaking throughout the creation of her senior show (named *Trimphi Florum*), which has now shifted her focus away from painting and into other media.

Allen has also accepted her ability to surprise herself, as the formation of her show has taught her much about her own willpower. She says, "I used my show to get me out of my rut of not creating. I just decided I was going to forget the expectations and paint what I was passionate about." Allen explains that although she has been told that she is a good artist, she is not a confident one. Her show has served as an excuse to be her own encouragement and to get back into the habit of art making. "Own your work!" Allen states proudly.

The first thing that Allen does before creating something is research. For example, for the flower paintings being showcased in her exhibition, she learned the history, name origin, symbolism, life cycles, and more in order to enhance her artistic choices. After research, she works intuitively and experimentally. "Acrylic paint is forgiving," she adds.

Aside from art, Allen has also always had an interest in human health, particularly that of the brain. She began her college career as a nursing major at St. Catherine's University in 2012. Upon realizing that she "passes out when near blood," she decided a different path was necessary. She still possessed a desire to help people and was looking to incorporating art into her profession as well; art therapy was a perfect fit. Allen has a psychology minor and hopes to go to graduate school to complete her long-term dream.

Allen also acknowledges that in order to help people, she has to help herself. She is currently working towards becoming as whole and healthy as possible in order to be able to better teach others to do the same. Her senior show is her kicking-off point to becoming the person she wants to be, hoping it tells a story that will encourage others to work towards that for themselves as well. †



Photo provided by Rachel Allen.

## Sprint Tour Homecoming Concert

BY MATTHEW IUNG

Concordia University's Concert band held its homecoming concert on March 6<sup>th</sup> after having been away on tour over spring break. The band performed in five locations, four of which were in Michigan. The band came back with plenty of interesting stories, experiences, and a concert full of well rehearsed and beautiful music.

"Invictus" was a strong and sudden opening. The piece has an air of fanfare, and it's no wonder the song was dedicated to the writer's friend who had been the bandmaster for the Ringling Brothers. The song's marching tempo and tone brought the room to life, and I half expected the band to get up and parade down the isles.

*King of Love My Shepherd* is by Jess Langston Burner is based on an old Irish hymn and the text phrases from Psalm 23. This song is what looking at a hill and rolling fields feels like. The notes from the song were held long making everything feel vast and open.

Before going to intermission, the band performed "Mambo Furioso" by Brant Karrick. This is a Jazz piece in the style of Tito Puente. The song comes in strong, and towards the middle, it takes a short section to lament the great loss that music sustained. After all of that, there is an expression of the unconventionality of music. It starts with the percussion section, which gets to do a bit of showing off. Then, almost like an infection, it spreads to the rest of the previously silent band. The rest of the band begins to tap on their stands with their pencils as the tempo picks back up. The song finished strong and was performed beautifully.

After a quiet post-intermission performance of "Beside Still Waters" by David R. Gillingham. The mood picked back up with "Albanian Dance" by Shelley Hanson. This piece was celebratory and made it seem as if there should be people dancing in the isles. The sounds of a festival filled the room, and the tone was light.

After that, the concert band performs "Wayfaring Stranger" by Christopher Nelson. This was a beautiful rendition, and I loved having the opportunity to hear it played live. This is a somber song that finds ways of relating with people as a resolution to hardships enduring and past. Closing out the show was Martin Luther's *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*.

All together this was an absolutely lovely show. I enjoyed hearing both the music and that the band made it safely to their destination as well as back home to perform for the college. †

## Studying Abroad in Barcelona: One Student's Stories of Navigating Camels, Siestas, and the Wonders of Spain

BY HD DOWNS

London, Israel, Greece, Mexico, and Costa Rica are just a few destinations that Concordia's students have studied abroad in. This semester, Barcelona, Spain was added to that list. Junior Communication Studies major, Eden Garman decided to spend her Spring semester in Barcelona, Spain. Leaving for her journey on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Garman has had a couple of months to get acclimated to her new home for the next five months, which happens to be with a host family.

Garman lives with a woman in her sixties who only speaks Spanish, which Garman likes, as it really lets her practice the language. Garman gushes that she

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Photo provided by Eden Garman.



# ARTS & VARIETY

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couldn't have asked for better accommodations; not only does she have her own room, but her host family cooks her all three meals a day, which leaves her apartment-living friends feeling jealous. She highly recommends staying with a host family to those interested in studying abroad.

Garman is studying through a program called Academic Studies Abroad (ASA), which consists of about 40 students and is considered to be a smaller program, as compared to most similar programs that consist of 100–200 students. She explains that the smaller size is nice, as she can get to know everyone much better. She is currently studying at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and taking four classes, including a photography class and a class titled “Seven Wonders of Spain,” a class dedicated to exploring the different parts of the country. Garman doesn't consider herself to be just “studying abroad;” she's living abroad. She is learning, absorbing, trying new things, and navigating the ropes of independence.

One thing that keeps some students from studying abroad is the fear that they

will get bored just staying in one place. However, Garman has already taken many exciting and reasonably priced excursions. From going skiing in the Pyrenees to riding a camel by the seaside in Morocco, there's been nothing even relatively boring about her adventures.

“Everything in the U.S. is so 'go, go, go! We have to go in and get out,' but here you have to ask for the bill. You can sit at a table with one cup of coffee for hours and hours, and they won't come up to you and ask if you're ready to pay,” says Garman when asked about the cultural differences. “It took me a bit to realize that I don't need to be going on five trips a day. I can go to class, do homework, call home, watch Netflix, and that can be enough for a day.” She explains that her stay in Barcelona isn't a vacation, so not all of her days need to be full; she has time, so why not take it?

Garman has been documenting her study abroad journey bi-monthly on her blog, [allthingseden.wordpress.com](http://allthingseden.wordpress.com). Check it out to keep up with all of her new adventures! †



Photo provided by Eden Garman.

## March 2018, Horror-scopes

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

### Aquarius

The potential for a sleepless night is in your future. Stock up on candles, tea, bubble bath, and a good book to put you more at ease. Or, if you'd rather, wallow in your own ruthless thoughts for hours on end, and go about the next day with untoward bags under your eyes. The choice is mostly up to you, but not entirely.

### Pisces

Burnt toast... It happens to the worst of us.

### Aries

Your Cocoa Puffs are already stale, and you are going to run out of eggs, meaning it will come time to go to the store and spend money that you don't have.

### Taurus

You are going to rush out of the shower and leave unwashed shampoo in your hair. You will look very bad, indeed. Invest in a hat, if you don't already have one.

### Gemini

You're going to begin a quiz feeling like you might have a chance... You're going to leave the quiz knowing that you don't and never did.

### Cancer

On Friday night, you are going to be too tired to go out and too restless to stay in. It'll be a hard decision, and either way, you'll lose.

### Leo

A hangnail is in your near future. Try not to wear loose or woven clothing, or it will surely catch. Life is hard, as you know.

### Virgo

Pack extra tissues this month. You will soon acquire a runny nose and be in a near-silent room for an extended period of time, all in the same day.

### Libra

An overripe fruit cup is trying to make its way into your path. Be extra cautious around the strawberries.

### Scorpio

Your zipper will get stuck on your backpack, and when you forcefully move it, it will cause your forefinger to bruise. Perhaps a drawstring bag and bubble wrap suit are better options for someone with luck as bad as yours.

### Sagittarius

Slush will find its way into your sneakers and dampen your socks with its cold, wet touch. Don't be fooled by the sunshine; boots will be your friend throughout the many, many, many days of the prolonged Minnesota “spring”.

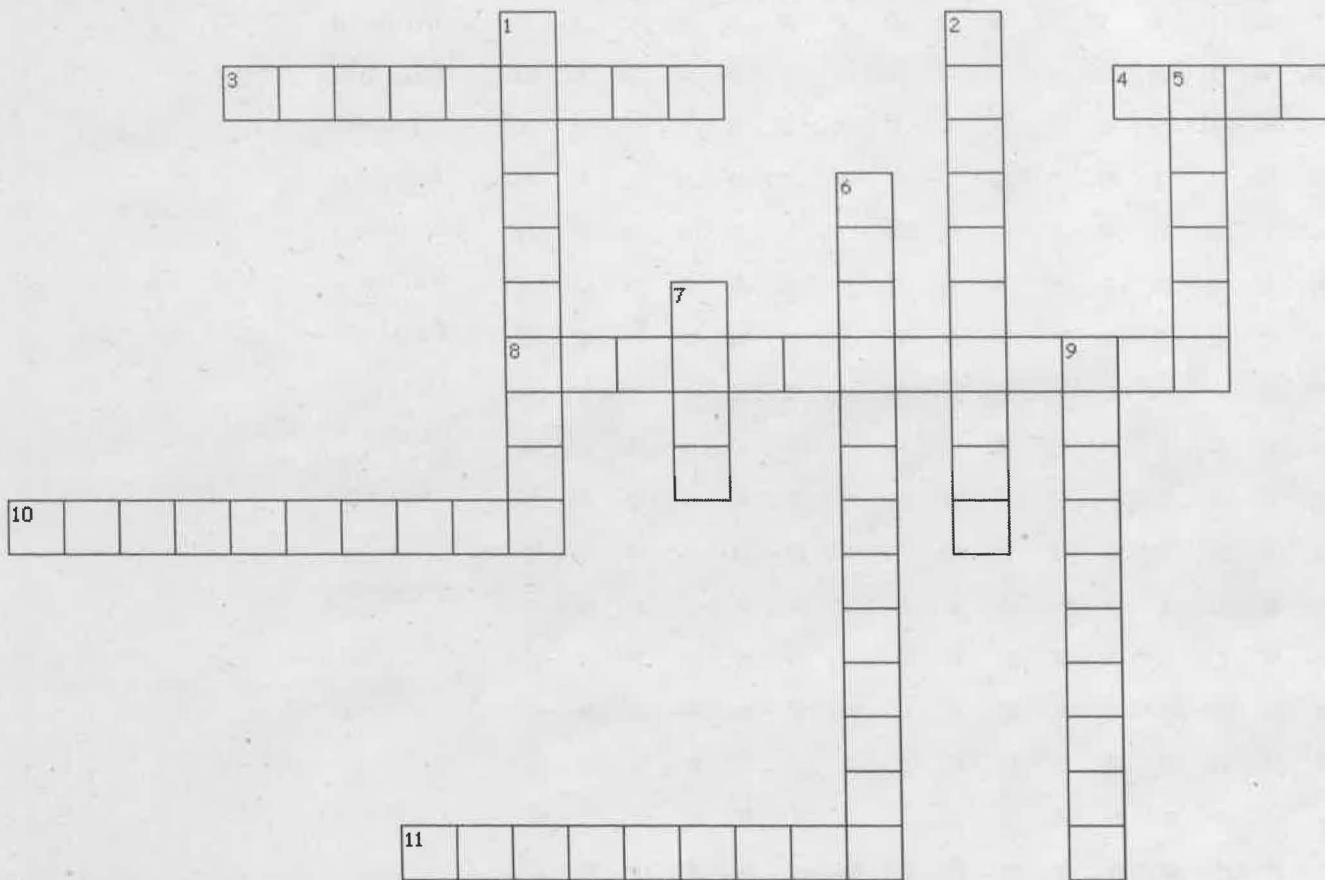
### Capricorn

An important piece of paper is planning a great escape. Be sure to put all receipts, legal documents, and pertinent assignments in a safe place... with a lock.



## U.S. Holidays

BY FARHA IBRAHIM



## Across

03. A day to honor US veterans and victims of all wars  
 04. A day to remember an activist that changed history.  
 08. Also known as the Fourth of July  
 10. A predictor of springtime  
 11. A day to remember those who died in active military service

## Down

01. A day of love  
 02. A day to remembering the dead  
 05. A day to honor working people  
 06. A day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest.  
 07. A mark of new beginning  
 09. A day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

## Useful Words That Too Few Know Exist

CURATED BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

**Frazils** are "ice crystals formed in turbulent water, as in swift streams or rough seas."

A **Crepuscular Ray** is defined as "a twilight ray of sunlight shining through breaks in high clouds and illuminating dust particles in the air."

**Petrichor** is the distinct scent of rain in the air. Or, to be more precise, it's the name of an oil that's released from the earth into the air before rain begins to fall.

A **foible** is a minor weakness or eccentricity in someone's character.

**Triptych** is a work of art that is divided into three sections or three carved panels that are hinged together and can be folded shut or displayed openly.

**Eonism** is the adoption of feminine mannerisms, clothing, etc., by a male.

**Sastruga** (or sastrugi in the plural form) means "ridges of snow formed on a snowfield by the action of the wind."

An **aglet** is a small sheath, often made of plastic or metal, used on each end of a shoelace, cord, or drawstring.

**Onism** is the awareness of how little of the world you'll experience, or otherwise used to describe the frustration of being stuck in just one body, which inhabits only one place at a time.

**Sonder** is the realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own.

A **bombogenesis** is a rapidly intensifying area of low pressure or a "weather bomb."

A **moniker** is a name.

A **jouska** is a hypothetical conversation that you compulsively play out in your head.

An **aphorism** is a tersely phrased statement of a truth or opinion, an adage.

**Vemödaalen** is the frustration of photographing something amazing when thousands of identical photos already exist.

To **juxtapose** is to place or deal with close together for contrasting effect; to collocate.

A **pandiculation** is a full-body stretch.

**Crapulence** is the discomfort from eating or drinking too much.

**Batrachomyomachy** is the making of a mountain into a molehill.

A **scintilla** is a minute amount, an iota or trace.



ARTS & VARIETY

Spring Is Here

BY FARHA IBRAHIM

T	W	K	K	E	E	K	L	I	N	W	Q	D	E	D	A	K	C	E	E	Birds
T	E	X	W	E	W	M	A	H	X	L	O	M	W	R	U	V	N	E	M	Cleaning
E	O	O	Y	X	A	E	U	S	R	W	D	B	L	F	G	C	I	S	F	Gardening
R	L	J	I	I	G	L	T	N	I	Q	C	O	N	Z	U	S	C	U	D	Rainbows
F	V	L	L	C	R	B	J	U	E	D	H	G	Y	I	I	Z	M	S	H	Butterfly
L	S	H	O	W	E	R	S	S	H	A	B	G	M	S	A	D	R	Q	G	Bunny
Y	R	O	U	X	T	T	H	K	L	I	S	E	N	G	M	R	G	W	K	Easter
A	B	J	L	P	S	K	M	G	R	T	T	T	A	I	K	I	H	F	H	Green
G	N	I	N	A	E	L	C	D	H	Q	O	R	E	J	X	N	E	D	G	Seeds
V	L	B	L	Q	C	Y	S	P	V	V	D	K	N	R	J	N	Q	F	N	Sunshine
N	J	Y	V	G	F	K	P	Z	G	E	C	L	X	O	G	E	N	K	M	Flowers
A	G	O	I	A	D	Q	I	O	N	Z	Y	C	J	R	P	Y	P	W	Q	Picnic
I	G	Q	O	G	T	Q	E	I	V	Z	L	P	J	G	C	K	P	U	B	Showers
Y	N	N	U	B	H	B	N	I	A	U	S	C	M	F	E	W	G	A	O	
I	F	I	G	U	N	G	O	J	B	U	P	Y	P	U	Z	W	W	G	L	
O	Y	U	Q	O	M	P	E	O	X	N	Y	L	Q	K	P	Z	U	T	G	
I	F	H	N	C	K	M	W	M	I	C	U	Q	M	A	A	I	Q	N	Z	
A	W	Y	L	X	V	K	K	B	L	S	D	E	O	I	U	X	H	P	X	

March 2018, Horoscope

BY CATIE NELSON

Aquarius

You will be in some deep water this month, and the emotional things you have stored away will seem more overwhelming. Take the positive energy from this full moon to express yourself and tend to those old wounds that have reopened.

Pisces

This month you are back in action, and new, lucky opportunities are at every turn. The full moon of this month will also affect your relationships in a positive, yet discreet way.

Aries

Slow down this month and take the time to address yourself. Take care of your body because you only get one. This month is great for fresh starts and ending bad habits and routines.

Taurus

Thanks to the full moon, this month is off to a rather crazy start. The uneasiness in your relationships has been at a peak but will soon turn to ease and comfort. You're a creative being, and the full moon is also a heavy motivator in what you are passionate about.

Gemini

Throughout the month, you will find your career and occupation shine as ideas and motivation will be at your side. The full moon will also affect your sensitive and emotional side as well. You will find yourself reminiscing about your childhood, past, and current relationships, but not in a negative way.

Cancer

As you enter this month, it will be rather hard to get emotional support from others because you have never been one to express your emotions. Always know there will be someone to listen if you find the courage to come out of your shell.

Leo

This month, your life will be revolving around big personal questions. The spotlight that normally radiates from you will be flickering from your lack of self-confidence, but it should turn around because of your determination to succeed.

Virgo

This month, you will need emotional support from relatives and friends. You may find that the full moon has affected your emotions to a greater extent. Avoid being alone with your deep thoughts and try to communicate with those close to you for support.

Libra

With this month's full moon, activity in your life will be at a high point. A lot of your time has been busy and active, so going further into the month try to think about downtime for yourself, so you don't feel overwhelmed.

Scorpio

Remember to breathe this month. Excitement and drama will be at your doorstep, and the full moon is partly to blame. Your moods will swing, and creativity is likely a bigger part of your life this month.

Sagittarius

This month, your usually calm and collected mood will be interrupted by the full moon of March first. Like a sled sliding down hills, it picks up speed as it moves, as such will be your professional life this month.

Capricorn

Your life is picking up speed, and you feel more in the mood to get work done. Progress in things you are passionate about will also show more intensively this month. Your sights will also be set on new experiences and eye-opening changes but not likely in negative ways.